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A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 2.

BOSTON, MASS., FEB. 15, 1899.

NO. 8.

Your Subscription Ended

for this paper, possibly with the last issue of A FEW HENS. If so, and you renew, you will get fifty per cent. more matter the coming year, as the paper will contain twelve pages instead of eight. The price will remain the same, 25 cents, as before. Kindly favor us at once with your renewal, sending 25 cents for same, in cash or postage stamps.

TAKE NOTICE. If you send us 40 cents, and one new subscriber, we will send the paper a full year to both for that amount. Send us 60 cents, and two new names, and we will renew your subscription; or send 60 cents, and we will enter your name alone for three years.

Either of the above offers we believe give more real practical value for the money than can be gotten anywhere else.

Send all money and subscriber's address, name, post office and state, (plainly written), in full to

A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL HINTS.

Plan well.
Don't boast.
Look ahead.
Don't be selfish.
Avoid air castles.
Don't be too smart.
Work for the future.
Welcome the visitor.
Stand by your breed.
Energy begets thrift.
Regularity is a virtue.
Breed only the strong.
Don't get the "blues."
Record the hen's work.
Never volunteer advice.
Discourage busy-bodies.
Get rid of the mongrels.
Protect the early chicks.
Adopt business methods.
Keep only the profitable.
The wide-awake succeed.
Are you making a profit?
Brevity is easily digested.
Changing breeds is a risk.
Never mind your neighbor.
Begin at the bottom round.
We are not too old to learn.
Combine utility and beauty.
Old hens are costly workers.
Eggs do not improve by age.
Grow pullets quickly for eggs.
Lookout for stumbling blocks.
Judge the hen by her product.
Utility first—beauty afterwards.
Filth is like the sheriff's hammer.
"Put your shoulder to the wheel."
"Unlike all others"—A FEW HENS.
Don't discredit unless you are sure.
Delicate stock are not utility fowls.

Experimental Farm Notes.

The Report for 1898—Over Six Hundred Dollars Income—Again the Wyandottes Lead—The Brahmas and Leghorns, too, Make a Good Showing—Other Items.

The complete report of income and expense, together with the cost of improvements, on the A FEW HENS Experimental Farm, for 1898, is as follows:

Wyandottes, eggs, January 1 to December 1 (as reported in last issue), \$38.13. For the month of December, \$2.64. Total, \$40.77. Poultry, January 1 to December 1, \$126.21. December, \$7.72. Total, \$133.93. Grand total, \$174.70.

Leghorns, eggs, January 1 to December 1, \$88.24. December, \$1. Total, \$89.24. Poultry, January 1 to December 1, \$68.79. December, \$7.21. Total, \$76. Grand total, \$165.24.

Brahmas, eggs, January 1 to December 1, \$28.59. December, 34 cents. Total, \$28.93. Poultry, January 1 to December 1, \$115.20. December, \$39.71. Total, \$154.91. Grand total, \$183.84.

The common hens being disposed of, and the ducks doing no laying in December, the record remains the same as announced in last issue: common hens, \$32.32. Ducks, \$111.79.

Following table gives amounts in full:

Light Brahmas.....	\$183.84
White Wyandottes.....	174.70
White Leghorns.....	135.24
Pekin Ducks.....	111.79
Common hens.....	32.32
	\$557.89

EXPENSE.

Feed.....	\$240.08
Supplies, incidentals, postage....	91.65
Advertising and printing.....	34.45
Freight, express and hauling....	25.81
Interest on investment.....	92.30
	\$484.30

Profit..... \$153.59

INVESTMENT.

Improvements and labor on same	\$260.42
Fixtures, tools, etc.....	90.91
1897 investment.....	117.15
	\$468.48

The stock on hand January 1, 1899, is as follows:

11 White Wyandotte hens, at \$2.	\$22.00
22 White Wyandotte pullets, at \$2.	44.00
12 White Wyandotte pullets, at \$1.	12.00
1 White Wyandotte cock,	3.00

4 White Wyandotte cockerels, at \$3.	12.00
5 White Wyandotte cockerels, at \$2.	10.00
5 Light Brahma hens, at \$2.	10.00
30 Light Brahma pullets, at \$2.	60.00
11 Light Brahma pullets, at \$1.	11.00
3 Light Brahma cockerels, at \$3.	9.00
11 Light Brahma cockerels, at \$1.50.	16.50
30 White Leghorn hens, at \$2.	60.00
2 White Leghorn cockerels, at \$1.	2.00
12 Pekin ducks, at \$2.	24.00

Total valuation, \$295.50

While the value of the stock on hand January 1, 1899, is very little more than it was January 1, 1898, we have made some changes which gives us better working force. We have cut down on ducks and increased on Wyandottes and Brahmas.

It will be noted in our item of expenses that we have charged \$92.30 interest. It is right that we should do that, whether we loan the money or use our own. An investment should always bring a profit. If we invest our own money, then that \$92.30 is our profit, and the \$183.59, balance in our favor, goes toward our wages. If the beginner does his own building, he will save fully \$500 out of what we charge improvements, and which we have actually spent for labor on same.

We have now about completed one acre of buildings, and have begun on the remaining part of our plant. It is our intention to complete the rest the coming year. The last half will not cost near so much money as the first half did, as in the item of \$1,520.25 is included \$300 for land, besides several hundred dollars spent for windmill, tools, fixtures, etc., which need not be purchased again. When fully complete we believe that A FEW HENS Experimental Farm will be a *multum in parvo* plant—on the same line our practical little paper is conducted. We claim that a large poultry plant is not measured solely by the acres it occupies, but by the actual business done.

We would like to get at the actual cost of feeding the 160 head of stock (with which we began 1898) for the year. But owing to the fact that we gradually disposed of our common hens during the year, and at the close of the laying season got rid of the bulk of the ducks,

we cannot give a fair estimate. Besides, we raised young stock which consumed considerable feed. The item of \$240.08 for feed is a very reasonable one for the number of head fed during the year. As near as we can come to it, one dollar per head per adult fowl, will hold good.

To get down to the actual profit of each breed, and charging *pro rata* the entire expense, which includes feed, supplies, incidentals, postage, advertising, printing, freight, expressage, hauling, and interest on investment, we have a charge of about \$3.00 against each head of stock. We will not credit the fowls with the young they produced, which we are keeping over for breeding purposes, but will let them take a share in the general investments on the farm.

The 38 Light Brahmas (hens, pullets and cockerels) gave a return of \$183.84; expense, \$114.00; leaving a profit of a fraction less than \$1.84 per head.

The 13 White Wyandottes gave a return of \$174.70; expense, \$39; profit, fraction less than \$10.44 per head.

The 31 White Leghorns gave a return of \$165.24; expense, \$93; profit, fraction over \$2.33 per head.

The 65 Pekin ducks gave a return of \$111.79; expense, \$195; making a loss of \$83.21 on the flock.

The 13 common hens gave a return of \$32.32; expense, \$39; loss, \$6.68.

However, in justice to the ducks and common hens, it must be said that gradually, during the year, we cut down the number. The last six months we practically had only 12 ducks on hand, and no common fowls.

But what we overcharge on these about offsets the cost of feed for the young, and which we do not credit the different breeds. Did we credit the young we are holding over for breeding purposes, it would add to the Brahmas more than to any of the others. For instance, it would give that breed a credit of at least \$70, or \$2 a head more than what we have placed it. But we do not want to give the stock this credit, as we want to include that item in our general stock account.

We begin 1899 with bright prospects. We have received a number of excellent orders, including a shipment to Jamaica, B. W. I. It is remarkable what a demand there is for utility stock. At this writing (January 17) we have orders for fully 500 eggs for hatching, and the season is not within a month at hand.

The revolving egg cabinet which we secured from the 20th Century Manufacturing Company, 211 Locust street, St. Louis, Mo., arrived safely, and at this writing is in use. It is without a doubt a valuable article. The egg stands on its end, and is held by thin wire. The cabinet is open on both sides so the air can strike the egg. By pulling a peg the cabinet can be swung around, turning every egg. It is certainly a complete affair, and should be in use on all poultry farms. Piling up eggs in baskets is a common cause for considerable complaint about poor hatches. When the egg lies on its side the yolk spreads and is apt to weaken or break; consequently it cannot hatch a strong chick—if it hatches one at all.

Eggs and Egg Farming.

Pointers Picked Up Here and There—An Opening in the South for Egg Farming—A Good Record—Fresh Eggs from Maryland—Increasing the Value of Wheat—Mr. Rudd's Best Luck—Mr. Sternberg Makes a Sweeping Assertion.

Don't move the layers.

Now for eggs for hatching.

Rich eggs are made by food.

Eggs are getting more plentiful.

Frosted combs stops hens laying.

Buy eggs from heavy laying stock.

For hatching, keep eggs end down.

Excitement and fright checks laying.

Overfat pullets are slow at beginning to lay.

A hen can pay her board with but one egg a week.

Soft-shelled eggs are scarce where clover is regularly fed.

Exercising costs more food but it produces more eggs.

The color of shell does not guarantee the flavor of the egg.

Kill the cold-storage trade by establishing a fresh egg route.

Mr. Jacobs says breed, feed and exercise are the best ingredients to make hens lay.

Put the ill-shaped eggs in the market basket rather than use them for hatching purposes.

A pullet fed principally on corn will not begin laying as quickly as one fed wheat instead.

To get 15 hens to do as good laying as 30 hens would in the same flock, is economy in the right direction.

Some poulterers declare that Leghorns with large combs lay better than those with small ones. Can any one tell why?

P. H. Jacobs says those who pay 5 cents per dozen more for brown eggs than for white, are paying liberally for nursing a fad.

Number your pens, and then put the corresponding number on the eggs you find in that pen. It is a simple method to breed from your best layers.

For a year round supply of eggs, a breed from the American or Asiatic classes, and one from the Mediterranean, will about do the work. But even then there must be early and late hatches.

Owing to mild winters, the South is in a position to make the egg crop a profitable one. Sending fresh eggs to the North, while the article is scarce here, would mean considerable money to the poulterer.

Hens are frequently made too fat to lay, but not too fat for the table, says Texas *Farm and Ranch*. Old hens will become too fat for laying almost without provocation—just a little corn twice a day and the thing is done. Oftener, however, hens are too lean to lay. Liberal feeding with nitrogenous food is what is needed.

F. Haskins, Spring Brook Poultry Farm, South Cortland, N. Y., writes: "January 1, 1898, we had, in a house 12x30, 104 pullets, all together. During January we received 960 eggs; February, 1440; March, 2280; April, 2070; May, 1980; June, 1588; August, 1548; September, 922; October, 448; Novem-

ber, 164; December, 76. In April, May and June, from 10 to 15 of them were sitting and caring for chicks." Says H. W. Collingwood, in *Rural New-Yorker*: "One bushel of wheat, costing 90 cents, will feed a hen for 300 days. If she lays 100 eggs worth two cents each, she will increase the value of the wheat to \$2, which is enough to haul one ton of freight 250 miles, or to haul one passenger 80 miles. After she has done all this she will return 25 cents' worth of the fertilizing value of the wheat to the soil for another crop."

F. H. Valentine, in *Rural New-Yorker*, for December 10, says that large quantities of fresh eggs are being received in the New York market from Maryland. "This is just the time when supplies of nearby fresh-laid run lightest, and a supply from this source helps out greatly. Of course, they do not fill the place of the nearby fancy eggs, but they are satisfactory to a large trade, especially as they sell for lower prices than the nearby. Price means much to some buyers. This is what helped the sale of the lined and refrigerator eggs."

Here is good news for the Southern poultrymen: Mr. Valentine, in *Rural New-Yorker*, says that in one commission house in New York he saw a bushel basket full of very fine white eggs, of remarkably good size for this time of year (January). Out of curiosity he weighed a dozen of the average-sized ones, and found they weighed just 1 1-2 pounds. These came from Virginia, and eggs from that part of the country have been improving. In the past, a larger part of the eggs from the South have been small, but latterly, southern farmers seem to be paying more attention to their poultry, and the result is that the eggs are improving. This lot of which he speaks were as fine as one could wish to see: clean, white—and were selling at prices nearly equal to the best northern. It is gratifying to note this improvement, for the southern poultryman has a great opportunity in producing and shipping strictly fresh first-class eggs to the northern cities at the time of year when many of the northern hens are on a strike. Considerable quantities have been coming recently from Virginia and Maryland, as well as from other parts.

Wh. Wyand., W. P. Rocks and R. I. Reds. Brown eggs from prolific winter layers at \$1.00 per 15. White Wyandotte eggs, \$4.00 per 100. C. A. SANBORN, 42 Fairmont St., Malden, Mass.

POULTRY CUTS at CUT PRICES. CATALOGUE FREE. Harper Eng. Co., Columbus, O.

BARRED ROCK EGGS from yard headed by Cockerel from A. C. Hawkins. Hens are large, nice shape, well marked, and good layers. \$1.00 for 13. Also a few good Cockerels and Pullets for sale. A few settings of eggs from Prize Winning Indian Games, \$2.00 for 13. C. C. SHORB, McDaniel, Md.

WHEN YOU HAVE ANY

Poultry for Market

Write for prices to

PHILIP QUIGLEY,
Produce Commission Merchant,

No. 303 South Front Street, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

"The best luck I ever had with poultry," writes W. H. Rudd, in the *New England Homestead*, "was with about 20 pullets, Plymouth Rocks, which were shut up in November in the basement of one of our houses, by no means the best, but, given extra care, they laid 1,976 eggs out of a possible 3,000 in 151 days, from December 1 to April 30. The profit for each hen for that period was \$2.79. Eggs were very high that winter, and sold for 40 cents a dozen a good part of the time. The cost of feeding was about \$10. The secret of success was in keeping them busy all the time. The floor was covered thickly with rockweed from the seashore nearby, and the grain was thrown into it. The hens would scratch and work away in the weed and almost bury themselves in it. I would frequently go down and stir up the weed, throw some grain in it and start them to scratching again. I was with them about all the time; fussed over them a great deal. I gave them a warm breakfast and warm whole corn for supper. In other ways they were cared for as usual. I did nearly as well the following winter by the same means, and I ascribe success mainly to keeping the hens at work and giving personal attention to their wants."

Theo. Sternberg, in *Country Gentleman*, says: "He who mates for fancy points, gets more eggs from his fanciest fowls, per hen, than does the star utility breeder." As a rule, Mr. Sternberg's writings are seasoned with considerable commonsense. But when he makes such a sweeping assertion he but admits that he knows but very little about the egg product of either the utility or the fancy hen. Readers of *A FEW HENS* are too well acquainted with facts to share in such a belief as Mr. S. expresses. To go still deeper in the mire, in the same article he says: "Go to the yards of the fancier who breeds winners—one who places points in the score above egg-production in his matings—study his methods of caring for his fowls, and you will learn more about egg production than you can from all the theories of the utility writers in the land." Did we wish to be personal, we could mention a score of fanciers who are winning at the leading shows, who have egg records that would disgust a poultry farmer. We saw the records—and we heard the expression from the fanciers: "Egg records be damned, there is more money in high score cards."

About Broilers and Roasters.

Game Crosses—Capon—Boston Market
—Hints on Killing, Dressing and
Sending to Market—Arthur Duston
and the Wyandotte.

Pack closely.
Sort carefully.
How is the broiler crop?
Never use straw in packing.
Line boxes with clean paper.
Boxes make the best packages.
Never wrap the birds in paper.
The dunghill makes the poorest broiler.
Lots of 100 pounds always travel safely.

Gilt-edged stock never needs to go begging.

A thin capon is not equal to an ordinary chicken.

In dressing poultry remove wing and tail feathers first.

Hardiness is an important factor in growing market stock.

Wyandottes and Plymouth Rocks lead in the broiler class.

Never ship dressed poultry to market in a dirty box or barrel.

Do not send to market such stock as you would hesitate to eat.

Selling poultry live is a shrewd plan to cover up poor carcasses.

It is the dishonest poulterer who markets sick or ailing fowls.

Plumpness is more desirable than heavy-weight in a dressed carcass.

Have a slat floor in the fattening pen, so the manure can fall through.

Never pack poultry for shipment until the carcass is thoroughly chilled.

The market that accepts just any kind of carcass is generally not a good paying one.

Large boxes are inconvenient to handle, and may become broken while being shipped.

Brahmas, Cochins and Langshans are especially recommended for roasting purposes.

Unless you know how to attractively dress poultry, it would be better to sell them alive.

Bleeding in the neck is being adopted on many poultry farms, in preference to stabbing in the mouth.

The Indian Game in its purity makes about as an attractive carcass when dressed of any we ever saw.

Leghorn pullets make excellent broilers, but it costs too much time and feed to get them to the proper weight.

It is said that White Indian Game crossed on White Wyandotte or White Plymouth Rock, makes a grand table fowl.

Big comb cockerels are not attractive looking broilers, as the big comb is apt to create a false impression regarding age.

We oppose getting the Wyandotte up to the Standard weight for Plymouth Rocks. There should be a distinction between the two breeds.

It is a mistake to cut off the heads or take out the insides of poultry sent to market, as it is the air that gets inside the carcass that causes the flesh to taint.

Arthur G. Duston says that, after trying five of the leading breeds, he finds the White Wyandottes make the best broilers and roasters. They are of quick growth, and stand heavy feeding and forcing.

M. M. S. POULTRY FENCING

is thoroughly interwoven but has long horizontal wires, which classes it as

A FENCE, NOT A NETTING.

Like a fence, it can be properly stretched and erected with few posts and without top and bottom rails. Has cable selvage and a cable running through the fence every foot. Each roll contains the famous M. M. S. trade mark.

None other genuine.

We are manufacturers also of the following famous fences:

CABLED FIELD AND HOG FENCE

with or without lower cable barbed. All horizontal lines are cables.

STEEL WEB PICKET FENCE

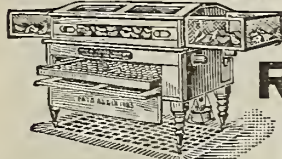
ideal fence for lawns, parks, cemeteries, etc. Steel gates, posts, etc. Everything the best of its kind.

DE KALB FENCE CO., 326 High St., DE KALB, ILL.



Pat. July 21, 1896. Pat. July 6, 1897.

THE HATCHING HEN



HAS LOST HER OCCUPATION and in the production and brooding of chicks she has been supplanted by the better and every way

RELIABLE INCUBATORS and BROODERS.

They Hatch and Brood when you are ready. They don't get lousy. They grow the strongest chicks and the most of them. It takes a 24-page book to tell about these machines and our Mammoth Reliable Poultry Farms. Plans for poultry houses, best way to handle, feed and market fowls, etc.

sent on receipt of 10 cents.

RELIABLE INCB. AND BROODER CO. Box

, Quincy, Ill.

Does 20 Hen's Work

The ordinary size Victor Incubator hatches as many chickens as 20 hens could hatch, and does it when hens can't be induced to set. A Victor Incubator is the greatest profit bringer that the poultryman or farmer can employ. It represents the highest step in artificial hatching. Being scientifically perfect in its operation—positively regulates itself—



The Improved VICTOR Incubator

is moderately priced. It is most economical to buy and to operate, most profitable in the results it attains. A written guarantee goes with every Victor Incubator that it will do everything claimed for it—or money refunded. Catalog 6c., circular free

GEO. ETEL CO., Quincy, Ill., U. S. A. Established 1867.

Capons, generally, are dressed by leaving feathers on the neck from the head down two-thirds to the shoulders. Leave feathers on two first joints of wings, on tail, half way up the back, and on legs from knee joint two-thirds up the hips. All the rest must come off.

Boston market prefers the head of the fowl taken off at the throat. Strip the blood out of the neck; peel back the skin a little; remove a portion of the neck bone; and then, just before packing, except in warm weather, draw the skin over the end and tie and trim neatly.

C. E. Johnson, in *Ohio Poultry Journal*, extols the cross of Game on Plymouth Rock for table poultry. About 16 years ago the editor of A FEW HENS crossed a Pit Game cock on Barred Plymouth Rock hens, and secured excellent table fowls. The flavor of the meat was strictly first-class, and the meat was close grained. But there was a great objection to them for market purposes. The largest per cent of the offspring came out with black plumage, and we had any amount of trouble with black pin feathers. Such looking carcasses do not sell well in market, and for that reason we discarded them. But we will never forget the juiciness of that meat.

D. W. Thomas, in *Weekly Commercial Gazette*, says: If it is desired to kill the birds without beheading them, a cord may be tied around the wings, fastening them to the body; then hang them on a pin, and with a sharp knife sever the under part of the neck or simply cut the large blood vessel in it, being careful not to sever the neck bone. In this manner the bird will die and no blood will come on the feathers. The birds, like larger animals, should hang in a cool place until they become cold before they are packed; otherwise they would soon become tainted. The packing should be done in a nice, clean box that will help and not injure the sale of the contents. If there are several sizes or kinds of fowls they should be sorted and packed in separate packages, the aim being to have the lot in each box as nearly uniform as possible. In placing them in the boxes they should all lie in the same direction, in layers, with the breasts turned up. If you have clean rye or unbroken wheat straw, a little may be put between each layer; otherwise use nothing between them. Pack them as closely as you can without pressing them out of shape. Poultry treated in this way will sell, if sent to market at the right time.

EGGS \$1.00 per 15. White Wyandotte; great layers of large brown eggs. S. C. W. Leghorns prolific laying strain. All Standard bred. Nothing better. Satisfaction guaranteed. C. E. MISNER, Calla, Ohio.

EGGS REASONABLE—From THOROUGHBREDS
 90c. for 15, From Wh., Buff and Bd. P. Rocks
 \$1.75 for 30, Wh., Golden and Bl. Wyandottes,
 2.50 for 45, Lt. and Dark Brahmas, Wh. and
 4.00 for 75, Black Minorcas, Red Caps, S. S.
 5.00 for 100, Hamburgs, S. C. Brown, Buff and
 Wh. Leghorns, R. C. Wh. Leghorns, Red P. Games,
 Houdans and Pekin Ducks. Also \$1.50 for every 15
 eggs from Sherwoods, Wh. Wonders, Wh. and Cornish
 Ind. Games, Bl. Javas and Am. Dominiques.
 Fertility guaranteed. See our catalog; it's free.
 Stock for sale at \$1.50 to \$5.00 each. Order remitting
 by Post Office Order, or write your wants.
BROOKSIDE PLTY. YARDS, Tioga, Pa.

Artificial Hatching and Brooding.

Mr. Cyphers on the Unincubated Egg—Pointers Taken From the Experience of Experts—Where to Place the Thermometer—Causes of Poor Hatches.

Some Causes of Poor Hatches—
 Inbreeding.
 Chilled eggs.
 Overfat hens.
 Overfat males.
 Sluggish fowls.
 Unhealthy stock.
 Lack of exercise.
 Dislike by females.
 Too few hens in pen.
 Impartiality of males.
 Males too long in pen.
 Too many hens in pen.

All incubators need care.
 Make a study of each hatch.
 Fill the lamps every evening.
 Use only perfectly-shaped eggs.
 Are the burners perfectly clean?
 An egg can easily become chilled.
 Give the incubator a fair and impartial trial.
 Do not turn the flame of the lamp too high.
 Eggs for hatching should be turned daily.
 Beware of ornaments—buy practical goods.
 Clean the machine thoroughly before starting.
 Never buy a machine having only a single wall.
 Campbell prefers an incubator room above ground.
 After 10 days of age, chickens must have fresh air.
 Keep a small trough of bran constantly in the brooder.
 No incubator can hatch good chickens from poor eggs.
 Don't buy an incubator with too large an egg capacity.
 Campbell recommends carpeting the floor of the brooder.
 A poorly constructed incubator or brooder is worthless.
 Eggs from a good, vigorous pen of birds will give best results.
 "Little but often" is the proper rule for feeding brooder chicks.
 Select such an incubator as is used by experts in the business.
 Begin your experience with small-sized machines—about 100-egg capacity.
 An incubator built as a parlor ornament is often a failure for practical purposes.
 Cyphers says warmth and fresh air are the principal factors in the incubation of the egg.
 D. A. Mount has the thermometer resting on a level with the eggs rather than on them.
 An egg cabinet—so arranged that the air can strike the eggs—is best for keeping them for hatching.

SINGLE and ROSE COMB WHITE Leg-
 horn eggs, 75 cts. per 15. Poultry Farm for sale.
 Mrs. S. RIDER, Maryland, N. Y.

For Sale!

Wilson Bone Cutter, cost \$18.00, Wilson Clover Cutter, cost \$7.50, 360-egg capacity hot water incubator, cost \$35.00. All used but one season; or will exchange for table poultry. ELI H. CHANDLER, Union Bank Building, Atlantic City, N. J.

After the 17th day, the thermometer will register 3 to 4 degrees higher when placed on a live egg.

Never mix hen-hatched and incubator-hatched chicks in the same flock. It will be apt to introduce lice.

A double roof, with air space between, on the incubator house, will protect the house from the hot rays of the sun the coming spring and summer.

An incubator hatch at the North Carolina Experiment Station was spoiled by a mouse getting in one of the ventilating tubes and dying there, causing a foul stench and shutting off air.

E. B. Underhill, in *Rural New-Yorker*, says the bulb of the thermometer should always rest on and between two fertile eggs, with the top of the bulb on a level with the top of the average egg in the incubator.

An unincubated egg is a very poor conductor of heat. The shell, however, is one of the very best conductors, and to it the more uniform heating of the egg is at first due, says Mr. Cyphers, in "Artificial Incubating and Brooding." In illustration, he says, if a piece of muslin be smoothly wrapped around an egg, it may be held in the flame of a lamp, until the whole egg is hardened, without the muslin burning, so rapidly does the shell conduct the heat away.

MAKE your own Louse Killer at 10c. gal. Recipe 10. Satisfaction. Robinette & Wade, Robinett, Va.

White Wyandottes. Eggs from my birds bred for business qualities. Excellent layers. \$2 per setting; \$5 for 3. J. H. Fleming, Dunellen, N. J.

WHITE WYANDOTTE Cockerels for sale. Good birds but not offered as prize winners. \$1.50 each. SILAS DEAN, Oak Hill, N. Y.

Berwick Farm—Buff Leghorns, Buff Wyandotte, Ind. Games. Our strain have won prizes in England and America's greatest shows; prolific layers; egg order book now open. Norwich, N. Y.

WHITE WYANDOTTES. Best of layers. Eggs, \$1.00 per 13; \$2.50 per 39. Guaranteeing 75 per cent fertility. E. SCHAAF, Box 121, Woodburg, N. J.

SOLD OUT STOCK. Will sell 12 settings of eggs from trio purchased of A. C. Hawkins, at \$2.00 per 15. Orders booked now. Also C. I. Games \$1.00 per setting, until 10 settings sold. F. M. CHESBRO, Mongro, Ind.

KLINE'S BUFF ROCKS. Winners at Mt. Gretna, Buffalo, Madison Square Garden, Washington, Hagerstown, Johnstown, Kansas City. Four Gold Specials and Silver Cup. Eggs, \$2; three settings, \$5. Write. Frank Kline, Spring City, Pa.

THE IMPROVED EMPIRE STATE BROODERS FOR 1899

Have many points far in advance of other makes; one very important item is the saving of 1-3 to 1-2 in oil. Stop this useless waste, as it means dollars to you. Brooder Lamps 60 cts. each; \$3.00 1-2 doz. Tested Thermometers 30 cts. each, by mail. Send stamps for circulars; it will pay you. Prices reasonable.

FOR SALE:—One new Cream Separator, and nearly new Dog Power. Address, W. H. CROSER, Hall's Corner, N. Y.

White P. Rocks

First Prize Winners wherever shown. Pure white, yellow legs, low combs, Rock shape. Eggs \$2.00 for 15. Satisfaction guaranteed. Headquarters for Poultry Foods and Supplies of every description. Illustrated catalogue of Poultry Supplies sent free. I. F. Schott, Box 194, New Pittsburg, Wayne Co., Ohio.

EXCLUSIVELY.

MAMMOTH PEKIN DUCKS, prolific laying stock. (Heavy weights). **PURE WHITE WYANDOTTES,** great layers. Best general purpose fowl. Birds \$2.00 each; \$5.00 trio. Eggs \$1.00 per 13; \$3.00 per 50; \$5.00 per 100. Orders booked now.

MAMMOTH BELGIAN HARES, \$1.00 each. Agents Prairie State Incubators and Brooders. New and second hand bargains.

Manufacturers Green Cured Fine Cut Clover, \$1.25 per 100 lbs.; \$5.00 per 500 lbs. (Endorsed by M. K. Boyer). W. R. CURTISS & CO., Niagara Falls, Ransomville, New York.

Ducks and Ducklings.

The Best Crop on the Farm—Hatching Duck Eggs—The Value of Shade for Young—Opinions and Hints by Experts.

Bed heavily.
Feed regularly.
Keep the pens dry.
Keep the ducks tame.
Sawdust is a good bedding.
Ducks do not thrive in filth.
The ducks should be laying.
Add grit to the feed once a day.
Breed only from vigorous stock.
Neglected ducks are poor layers.
Ducks very seldom become broody.
Overcrowding causes feather pulling.
Bathing in water is excellent exercise.
Better keep the ducks a little hungry.
Keep the early ducklings for breeding.
An uncomfortable duckling cannot grow.
Do not feed more than will be eaten up clean.
The laying duck is not apt to become overfat.
Cleanliness is a virtue even in duck culture.
It is best not to wash the eggs for hatching.
Better find a table market for the early duck eggs.
Bathing water and sandy soil are factors for cleanliness.
From March on, the fertility of the egg becomes greater.
If possible, do not place more than 50 ducklings in a pen.
The percentage of fertility in the early eggs will be very small.
The average egg yield, per year, of the Pekin ducks, is given at 120.
During winter it is best to shut up the breeders in their pens at night.
Unlike a chicken, a duckling does not know how to get out of danger.
Keep eggs for hatching in a temperature as near 60 degrees as possible.
A trough of cracked oyster shells should be constantly before the laying stock.
After the ducklings are a week old, their food can be mixed with cold water.
A. J. Hallock says brooding comes first, but it is no more important than feeding.
Housewives claim there is enough nutriment in one duck egg to equal two hen eggs.
The brooder temperature for the just-hatched ducklings must not be over 90 degrees.
James Rankin says if any one fails in the duck business it must be through his own incompetency and neglect.
As the season advances, keep the ducklings more in the shade. More loss is caused by hot suns than anything else.
The new book "Artificial Incubating and Brooding" claims it costs but \$1 to raise a duckling to maturity, and \$1 the annual cost of keeping.
James Rankin says of duck culture: Independent of the elements, affected neither by floods nor drafts, heat nor cold, a concentrated cash product turned every three months—it makes the best of any crop on the farm.
Geo. H. Pollard, in *Reliable Poultry Journal*, says, in breeding ducks—

other things being equal—it will be found that a water range will conduce very materially to a greater fertility in the eggs, and to a stronger and more healthy germ.

In young ducklings, says Mr. Pollard, in *Reliable Poultry Journal*, overheating causes leg weakness, giddy, whirling spells and spasms—and ends in the bird throwing itself on its side and dying. While shade is an absolutely necessity, they must also have a chance to get as much sun as they require. They will suit themselves according to their needs when sufficient opportunity is provided.

Referring to hatching duck eggs, James Rankin, in "Artificial Incubating and Brooding," says: "See that the heat in the egg chamber is uniform. Use accurate glasses, and place them on the eggs in the centre of the egg chamber. Run them at 102 degrees the first two weeks, and 103 after the animal heat begins to rise. The eggs should be cooled a little once each day after the first week, and longer after the animal heat rises. A little moisture should be used after the 18th day, ventilating a little more towards the end of the hatch."

Sitting Hens and Little Chicks.

Early Chickens Are Profitable—Value of Bi. Carb. Soda for Young—The Lament of a Hen—How Mr. Kerr Originated a Breed of Floaters.

Set the early broodies.
Begin now your war on lice.
Don't set a scaly legged hen.
Keep a record of each hatch.
Keep the coops and nests clean.
Neglected chicks will be stunted.
All nests should be on the ground.
Don't set the hen in the hen house.
Set each hen in an apartment alone.
Make this the banner year for chicks.
Be sure to set the hen in a warm place.
Keep small grit constantly within reach.
The fresher the egg the better the hatch.
There are no positive non-sitting breeds.
Heavy winter laying makes early broody hens.

CUT CLOVER in sacks. \$1.25 for 100 pounds.
J. G. QUIRIN, Tioga Center, N. Y.

S. C. Brown Leghorns, choice Cockerels and Pullets.
Eggs in season. ZUNDEL BROS., Grapeville, Pa.

AN UNPARALLELED RECORD. At America's greatest show, New York, '98, also at Boston, this season. At the latter show, on two entries of Turkeys, won two 1sts, and \$10 special for best pr. At New York, on four entries, won four 1sts. Eggs for hatching from this stock, 40c. each. Best strains of Pekin, Aylesbury and Muscovy Ducks, Toulouse and African Geese, Ind. Games, L. Brahmas, B. and W. P. Rocks, Wh. and S. L. Wyand., Wh., Brown and Buff Leghorns, Black Minorcas, White and Pearl Guineas. Write for 32-page catalogue, free. Choice Stock for sale. "Agent for Lee's Lice Killer."
D. A. MOUNT,

PINE TREE FARM, JAMESBURG, N. J.

Maple Farm Duck Yards

Our mammoth Pekin ducks stand unrivaled for size and symmetry. 2500 birds selected with care for breeding purposes. Order early. Eggs in season. My book "Natural and Artificial Duck Culture," free with each order.

Monarch Incubator still ahead.

Send for catalogues to

JAMES RANKIN, South Easton, Mass.

White and Silver Wyandotte

STOCK and EGGS. Wm. H. Child, Glenside, Pa.

It is not always the fat hen that becomes broody.

Eleven eggs are enough for a hen this kind of weather.

Pullets hatched now will come in for late summer layers.

This is a good time to set eggs of the Asiatic breeds.

It is best, at this season, to let the hen raise her young.

Get a few sittings of eggs this spring to introduce new blood.

Grit, corn and fresh water is the best diet for the sitting hen.

Nests should be large enough so the hen can easily change her position.

Try a camphor ball for lice. Place one in each nest as you set the hen.

Keep food constantly before the sitting hen so she can help herself at will.

Keep a small box of bran in the pen so the chicks can help themselves at will.

Poultry Printing, } Circulars and sample leg
Peerless Leg Bands, } band free. Get my prices on
Rubber Stamps. } up-to-date printing. Peerless
Leg Bands stay on and stay
bright. Egg Dater and Ink
Pad, 50c. B. F. Huntington,
Platteville, Wis.

LANGSHANS

ARE GOOD LAYERS AND I HAVE
GOOD ONES FOR SALE.

BLACK AND WHITE.

Address, MRS. C. M. KELLY, Newark, N. Y.

POULTRY PRINTING.

500 Envelopes, \$1.00. 500 Note Heads, \$1.00.
500 Cards, 1.00. 500 Shipping Tags, 1.00.
500 1-page Circulars, 2.50. 500 2-page Circulars, 4.00.
500 4-page Circulars, \$6.00.

Our Circulars are the "finest of the fine." Good cuts, good paper, superior workmanship. Give us a trial order. Send for samples.

Lawrence, Mass., Nov. 17, 1898.

Note heads and envelopes received and am very much pleased with them. We don't see how you can really afford to do such work at so nominal a figure.

BERRY BROS.

Bryan, Texas, Nov. 21, 1898.

I was highly pleased with the printing you did for me. There was certainly nothing cheap but the price.

ED. S. DERDEN.

Amesbury, Mass., Nov. 18, 1898.

The cards were received today. They were better than I expected for the money.

B. S. GALE.

Carlisle, Neb., Nov. 22, 1898.

The work you do is beautiful and surely is first-class.

W. R. PETTY.

The Fanciers' Review, Box 1, Chatham, N. Y.

I. K. FELCH & SON,

Box K, Natick, Mass.

Light Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks,

and White Wyandottes,

—BRED ON PRACTICAL LINES.—

Standard Points and Egg Records Combined.

Enclose stamps for 24 page catalogue.

Over \$14 Per Head

Actual profit on a pen of White Wyandottes, as explained in January A Few Hens. Eggs for hatching (from stock that averaged 180 eggs each the past year) \$1.50 per sitting. Address,
C. K. NELSON, Hammononton, N. J.

Dulany & Branin,

(Successors to Haines & Branin,)

Commission Merchants,

Philadelphia Poultry; Broilers, Roasters, Fancy Capons, Squabs and Eggs.

Nos. 41, 43 and 45 Hewitt Avenue.

West Washington Market, NEW YORK CITY.

Chicks hatched now must have a large and warm house to work in during the day.

A few raw eggs mixed with the food, about once a week, will check any tendency to looseness of the bowels.

Brahmas and Cochins are good hatchers, but their clumsiness breaks a good many eggs and kills quite a number of chicks.

F. P. C. Chick Manna, for sale by all dealers in poultry supplies, is the best chick food (for the first 10 days) we have ever tried.

Scatter the floor of the pen with straw cut in lengths not over an inch so that the hen can teach her young how to exercise for the grain.

Geo. S. Whitford, Phenix, R. I., writes: "I heartily endorse the A FEW HENS style of open coops for growing chicks, allowing pure, fresh air at night. My chicks have proved the advisability of using such coops, they being the picture of perfect health."

Just as soon as a hen is through hatching I put her and her brood in a room, the floor of which is covered in sand half an inch deep. I commence feeding with grist and water. After the third day I give them wheat seconds, mixed with boiling water, given just warm, but I keep the grist by them all the time, for which the little fellows scratch in the sand, giving them good exercise. Once a week I mix a little flour of sulphur with the warm food, and when I see any of them with their heads drawn down in their shoulders, and keep gaping, I put a little bi. carb. soda in their water for a day, and it has a happy effect. The soda counteracts any sourness of the bran, and the sulphur opens and purifies the bowels.—*M. K. Law, Augusta, Ga.*

John M. Kerr, Columbus, Ohio, gives A FEW HENS this interesting experience: "About the first of March last I set a hen in a box on the ground floor of an out house. About the middle of the month we were visited by a tremendous flood, which caused a break in the levee near where I live. The flood came upon us so sudden that I could not rescue my hen. As soon as the box began to float the hen flew to a place of safety, and the box containing the nest drifted about the building for nearly half a day before I could reach it. As soon as I got it out I placed the eggs in a basket near the stove, and took out the wet nest, and, drying out the box, made a new nest. I bathed the eggs in warm water, and, after wiping dry, replaced them in the nest and put on the hen. I was told by several that my labor would be lost, as the eggs could not possibly hatch. But to the surprise of all, the hen hatched 8 out of the 12 eggs—six of which are now full grown and have commenced to lay. I gave them the name of *Floater's*."

A correspondent of A FEW HENS overheard the lament of a hen, and this is what she is supposed to have said: "I am going to tell you what a hard time I had, and will begin with my 'sitting' experience. Before that I fared about as the rest of my mates did, and could, of course, manage

better. There were about a score of us. It had been a long, hard winter, and we all had a shivering time of it, and couldn't be expected to lay many eggs by any one of common-sense. Of a sudden it came to me that I wanted to mother a brood of chickens, and I couldn't get the idea out of my head; so I decided to stick to the nest until they would give me eggs, which was about two weeks afterwards. I was about giving up the idea. Then they failed to fasten out the rest of the flock, and I was kept fighting a good share of the time to keep the eggs from being broken. In spite of all that I could do, there were some eggs laid in my nest. Then when the people of the house discovered it they immediately nailed me in, and forgot, I suppose, that I would ever want anything to eat or drink. It was getting quite warm and I suffered intensely, I can tell you. But give it up I would not, and you see I could not, for they had me safe and secure. At last I was rewarded for my faithfulness by a nest full of little peepers. But, as it turned out, my trouble had only just begun. We were shut up in a little coop, scarcely large enough for me to turn round in. It faced the west, and there being no shade, I had to endure the sun's hot rays all afternoon. Sometimes we were fed three times a day, and at

other times only twice a day. We were given water in a large dish when shut up, and got no more until that was gone. I tried to drink enough in the morning, before the sun boiled it, to last all day. It was the kid of the household who generally looked after us. And don't I wish he was a hen for a while and I the kid. Then I would have the fun of asking him how he liked rank water to drink, and part of the time no water at all. Some of the time more food than I could devour, and at other times be half starved. We didn't get meat more than two or three times a year. I wanted some so badly; would have given half my chickens for a handful any time. All bones were fed to the dog. Our house never saw a hoe or broom. Such is the life of a poor hen. How can they expect us to lay eggs every day in the year with such treatment. But when we are in no condition to lay is just the time they cut down our rations and frown on us in great shape."

Established 1855.

BENNETT, RAND & CO.,

Commission Merchants,

POULTRY, GAME, BUTTER, EGGS, Etc.

Nos. 19 and 20 North Market Street,
and 19 Clinton Street, BOSTON, MASS.

Poultry Supplies:

BOILED BEEF AND BONE,
BOWKER'S ANIMAL MEAL,
BRADLEY'S MEAT MEAL,
BEEF SCRAPS,
OYSTER SHELLS,
MICA CRYSTAL GRIT,
ORR'S CLEAR GRIT,
DRINKING FOUNTAINS,
CONKEY ROUP CURE,

FEED TRAYS,
LEG BANDS,
CHINA EGGS,
BONE CUTTERS,
SHELL MILLS,
CLOVER CUTTERS,
KILLING KNIVES,
WIRE NETTING,
CAPONIZING SETS,

INCUBATOR THERMOMETERS,
SULPHUR CANDLES,
EGG TESTERS,
BOOKS ON DOGS, CHICKENS,
RABBITS, CATS, PIGEONS, ETC.
SHERIDAN'S CONDITION POWDER,
PRATT'S POULTRY FOOD,
LEE'S LICE KILLER,
GERMERZONE,

SAFETY AND PRIME EGG CASES,
MEXICAN MUSTANG LINIMENT,
P. D. Q. FLEA POWDER,

GREELEY ROUP AND CHOLERA CURE,
LAMBERT'S DEATH TO LICE,
JOHNSON'S ANODYNE LINIMENT.

Sole Manufacturers **BANNER EGG FOOD AND TONIC.** Small Sample Free.

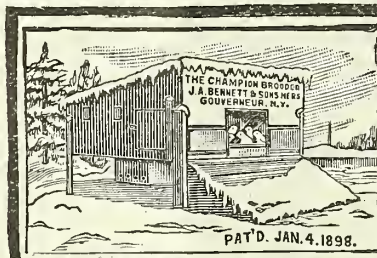
New York and Export Agents for the Prairie State Incubators and Brooders.

Our Immense Illustrated Catalogue Free. Mention A Few Hens.

Excelsior Wire and Poultry Supply Co.,

W. V. RUSS, Proprietor.

28 Vesey St., New York City.



In Zero Weather

when everything is frozen up tight is the time to test a brooder. It is then that the poultryman wishes to be sure that he has made no mistake in buying a machine.

THE \$5.00 CHAMPION BROODER
IS KNOWN BY ITS WORK.

It fills every requirement. It has stood the zero test repeatedly in the worst blizzards of years. It brings its chicks through every time under all conditions. Endorsed by the very best authorities. Send for descriptive catalog and testimonials.

J. A. Bennett & Sons, Box

H. Gouverneur, N. Y.

Pointers on Food and Feeding.

A Few Things Experts Know, but Might have Forgotten, Yet Invaluable to Beginners—Mangel Wurtzel Beets—Value of Wheat and Oats—J. E. Rice's Bill of Fare—Green Cut Bone the Greatest Egg Producing Food.

Never feed burnt wheat.
Don't get the mash too soft.
Clover leads in egg elements.
Overfat is not a good condition.
Don't overdo the ration business.
Warm quarters lower the feed bill.
Sour or sloppy food breeds disease.
The busy hen deserves all she gets.
Mistakes in feeding are easily made.
Crumbly mash is more eagerly eaten.
A good appetite is the best foundation.
Too much salt will cause bowel troubles.
Table scraps should be mixed with the mash.
Cooked clover is relished better than when steamed.
A complicated ration means unnecessary work and cost.
It is a good idea to heat the whole corn before feeding.
Too much linseed meal is apt to cause bowel looseness.
Too much salt in the food is apt to cause a loss of feathers.
Unthreshed millet straw is a good scratching material.
You cannot feed for fat and feed for eggs with the same ration.
Many of the ills of fowl life can be prevented by proper feeding.
Too much mash in the morning is the way to abuse a necessary meal.
Clover hay and green bone have made winter egg production possible.
Feed soft feed from troughs. It is a waste to throw it on the ground.
W. H. Jenkins says one pound of meat is worth several pounds of grain for making eggs.
The ration that will fill the bill for one class of poultry is often out of place with another.
Are those drinking vessels becoming lined with scum? Wash them in warm water at least once a week.
Stale bread ground in that bone mill, will be reduced to a nice condition for mixing in the mash. Try it.
Prof. Dawley says: "Don't feed your hens corn, red pepper and snow, and blow because they don't lay."
A certain amount of feed is required to sustain the body—the surplus goes towards the manufacture of eggs.
Cottonseed meal may be given occasionally for variety, but it is not especially recommended for poultry.
The bone mill will grind up the egg shells you have on hand, and these shells will be useful in the mash.
The *Rural New-Yorker* wants to know how you can expect eggs from fowls when grit is "scarcer than hens' teeth."
Scatter wheat among the litter at night, when closing up, and the hens will have something to work for in the morning.
The *Ohio Poultry Journal* says eggs from milk-fed hens are insipid and unsatisfactory when poached or used in puddings.

Burr Knapp says a pint of linseed meal to 25 hens, given with the soft feed every third day, promotes eggs and health and makes the feathers shine. An evening feed of two-thirds wheat and one-third corn, will give both egg and heating material, and is an excellent combination for an evening feed in winter.

There is a difference in meat scraps. When used for making fertilizers it is sometimes treated with acid, says *Farm Journal*. Such stuff is not fit for poultry food.

J. Dryden, in the Utah State Farmers' Institute Annual, shows how a bushel of wheat worth 50 cents, can be turned into eggs and raise that wheat value to \$3.50. He says: "We are crying out every day in the year for factories; why not boom the hen?"

J. E. Rice, of New York, is giving out in his institute talks the following ration for the winter laying hens: Cornmeal, 100 pounds; ground oats, 100 pounds; wheat bran, 200 pounds; meat meal, 50 to 75 pounds; linseed meal, 25 to 50 pounds. This is feed for the noon meal with boiled or raw vegetables.

The *Southern Poultry Journal* says: "Oats fed with other grain is good poultry food, but when fed exclusively to hens brings on bowel troubles and packed crops. At any rate, that was the result of an experiment we made. The hens had a large run covered with more green oats than they could use and were fed exclusively shelled oats."

Joe Farmer, in *American Poultry Journal*, says that after 25 years of experience in caring for poultry, he has found mangel wurtzel beets the very best of all green feed for winter, except apples and cut clover. Cut the beets in halves and lay them in the feed troughs. Don't cook them. An immense amount of good can be grown on a small patch.

Green cut bone is the greatest egg producing food in the world, says *American Agriculturist*. It is a food that cannot be omitted from the diet to have the best results obtained both in breeding and egg production. While the most prominent poultrymen know this to be a fact, there are thousands upon thousands of our readers who are still ignorant on the subject.

African Geese

(that are Africans) a specialty. The surest breeders of any of the large kinds. No exhibition stock now to spare. Good business birds for crossing for market production for sale. Put genuine African males with your large Toulouse and Embden females or African females with your Embden males, if you want lots of the most marketable goslings. Particulars free. SAMUEL CUSHMAN, Pawtucket, R. I.

Rhode Island Reds

are hardiest and lay largest deep tinted eggs of any birds of their size. Have deeper yellow skin and legs than any white fowl; are not angular, coarse boned and leggy when dressed and have no dark pin feathers. Have not yet been spoiled by being bred for feather by the extreme fancier and therefore

Just Suit the Farmer

We have a choice lot of them and will sell eggs. Circulars of poultry and geese free. SAMUEL CUSHMAN, Pawtucket, R. I.

**Runs on
Ball
Bearings**



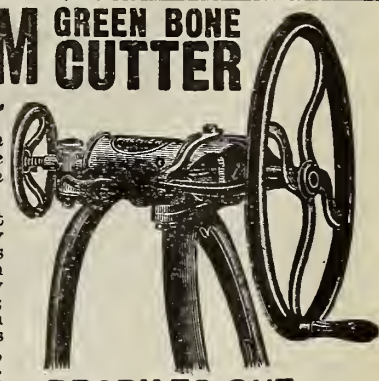
OPEN TO FILL.

made of high-grade steel and are easily kept in order and may be renewed when necessary. The machine is unusually well built. Endorsed by all leading poultry authorities. All about it in our illustrated and descriptive circulars—they are free. Don't buy a bone cutter until you have seen them.

THE ADAM GREEN BONE CUTTER

**Formerly the Premier
Is the only Green
Bone Cutter in the
world fitted with
ball bearings.**

That is the reason why it turns more easily than any other. Another reason is that the knife works on the shoe plate principally—it really cuts the bone; it doesn't gouge it off in chunks. Cuts all kinds of bone, hard, soft, fresh, dry, etc., without choking. Needs no cleaning—cleans itself. The knives are



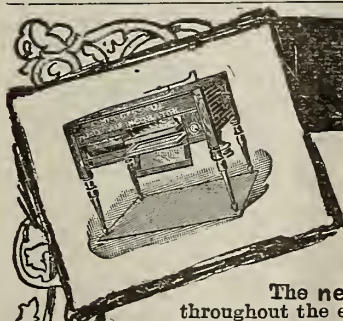
READY TO CUT.

W. J. ADAM, JOLIET, ILLINOIS.

They are Bred for Eggs and Meat!

**LIGHT BRAHMAS,
WHITE WYANDOTTES,
S. C. WHITE LEGHORNS.**
Eggs for Hatching only \$1.25 per sitting of 15.

We use none but strictly hardy, vigorous birds in our breeding pens, keeping as close to the Standard requirements as is consistent for good health and profits. Utility being our aim. Orders booked now. MICHAEL K. BOYER, Hamonton, N. J.



"THERE ARE OTHERS"

but none among them are quite the equal, or approach the high degree of efficiency of the

New Successful Incubator.

The new regulator insures an absolute uniform temperature throughout the egg chamber. They are so constructed as to generate their own humidity of atmosphere. No sprinkling of eggs with water or laying on of damp cloths. They are supplied with fire proof lamps—cannot increase your insurance or invalidate your policy. All about them in new catalogue and Book on Incubation. Sent for 6 cents in stamps. **DES MOINES INCUBATOR CO., Box 423 Des Moines, Ia.**

A FEW HENS.

EDITED BY
MICHAEL K. BOYER,
Hammonton, N. J.

Published Once a Month.

Sample Copy Free.

Price, Monthly Three Cents.

By the Year, Twenty-Five Cents.

Send all orders to

I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.,
PUBLISHERS.

ADVERTISING RATE:

The rate per agate line is 15 cents each insertion; or 10 cents per line if order is for six months or more. About seven ordinary words make one line. There is fourteen lines in each inch space, single column.

Entered at the Post-Office at Boston, Mass., as second-class matter, by I. S. Johnson & Co., Publishers, 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL.

We Are Favored. No one looking over our packed advertising columns will for a moment question whether it pays to advertise in A FEW HENS. It took one year to convince advertisers that our growing circulation was such as must give the very best results, and during that year we came across many Doubting Thomases. It is easier now to fill a column than it was then to secure an inch. Last month we had to refuse a half page of advertising for want of space—and we would right here suggest that advertisements must reach us by the fifth of each month to insure insertion.

The Egg Season Is at hand, and such poultrymen who have good utility points to advertise, will find custom by advertising in A FEW HENS. Our readers don't care a continental about high scores—they are no guarantee for eggs. Perfection alone is attained in the egg basket. Are you breeding heavy layers? Our readers are interested, and if they learn about you they will make it still more interesting. We firmly believe that there is no poultry publication in existence which reaches such a large class of beginners (and they are the best buyers) as does A FEW HENS.

Our Word For It. The editor of A FEW HENS is very careful not to recommend any party or article that he is not familiar with. Our department, "People We Know," has been designed for the express purpose of noting such men and such goods as we believe our people are especially interested in, and are reliable. Having our readers success in mind, we are not so thin-skinned as to think that because Mr. So-and-So has something of value, but does not advertise with us, it is of very little consequence. If he does not advertise in A FEW HENS it is his misfortune, and not ours.

For example, B. F. Huntington, Platteville, Wis., did not advertise in A FEW HENS, and yet he is the manufacturer of a leg band that particularly suited our fancy. We secured a lot for use in our yards, and mentioned that fact in our paper. The result was our readers became interested, as the following letter from Mr. Huntington explains:

"From the number of inquiries I 'am having, labelled A FEW HENS, 'I judge you have a 'right smart' 'circulation. I shall be with you 'for a time at least.' True to his word, he has an advertisement in this issue.

The 20th Century Manufacturing Company, St. Louis, Mo., have never advertised in A FEW HENS. But they make a revolving egg cabinet that beats anything of the kind that we have ever seen. We illustrated it in our last issue. Our readers, too, were captivated with the invention, as this letter from the Company will testify:

"That grand write-up you so 'kindly gave us is going to be invaluable to our infant industry. 'Almost before the paper reached 'us inquiries began pouring in. In-'deed, Uncle Mike's word goes a 'long way.'

Here is another favorable verdict from a new advertiser, F. A. P. Coburn, Lowell, Mass.:

"I am getting quite a lot of inquiries from your paper, and think 'it will pay me well. I am very 'much pleased with A FEW HENS. 'It is just what was needed, and I 'take a great deal of pleasure in 'reading it.'"

More Pleased People. "We aim to please" is an old stereotyped catch line for business people. A FEW HENS not only adopts it, but adds an amendment: "We aim to instruct." How well we are succeeding is told in these valuable testimonials:

L. A. Pritchard, Morrisdale Mines, Pa., writes: "A FEW HENS is the gem of poultry papers."

C. N. Davidson, Chicago Lawn, Ills., in sending in a subscription for a friend, writes: "This party has a large farm on which he expects to commence breeding next spring, and in talking with him I suggested he ought to have A FEW HENS. Like every one else, to see a copy was to subscribe."

Abe Ely, Wykoff, N. J., writes: "I want to say a few words about A FEW HENS. I have been reading your books and letters for about six years, but it seems you have got the collar off now, and you are certainly making things hum, and making the hens cackle at the same time. If A FEW HENS progresses at the rate it has been during this past year, some of our great editors will have to look to their laurels. I enjoy the roasting you have given some of the editors, but it will help keep them on the right track. A FEW HENS is the greatest little poultry paper published. Success to it and Uncle Mike."

Mrs. Mertie Poffenberger, Bakersville, Md., writes: "I enjoy reading A FEW HENS. I find many helps. It is a sensible paper through and through. I like it because it tells you how to manage and feed. I like the Brevity Symposium, and hope you will continue it, as well as the Pointers on Food and Feeding, and Eggs and Egg Farming. I am following many of your methods on my 2-acre farm, and succeeding. My

neighbors are beginning to be surprised at my results from good management in cold weather."

James Dickinson, Chesilhurst, N. J., writes: "I like A FEW HENS very much. There is not too much to read, but the information I want is there all the same."

Mrs. J. P. Lawton, Columbus, Ga., writes: "I take A FEW HENS and am delighted with it."

L. D. Elliott, Ft. Wayne, Ind., writes: "Have been a subscriber and interested reader of A FEW HENS the past year, and have come to consider its opinion on subjects relating to profitable poultry culture as very valuable."

H. C. McArthur, Colorado Springs, Colo., writes: "If I am pretty old, I still think I know a good thing when I see it. A few days ago I had the November copy of A FEW HENS given me, and it is so full of condensed, cut and boiled meat, I herewith hand you Post Office Order for \$1.25 to cover wagon load of chicken literature—the four papers and two books."

John Buttrick, Maplewood, Mass., writes: "I am very fond of A FEW HENS. It is the most useful poultry paper printed, and is an excellent companion. I read it over and over again, and often after being laid aside for awhile, read it again with the same interest as if just fresh from the press."

Crowded Out. We regret that we are compelled to crowd our Brevity Symposium out of this issue of A FEW HENS. There is such a demand upon our space, and so many important matters that are now in season, that we have concluded to drop the Symposium for one or two issues, to make room for them. By that time we will have ready a lot of valuable opinions on various timely topics, which we are now compiling. We have also made a change in our Daily Market Reports. We find to put down each day's quotations consumes too much of our space, so we give a condensed plan which we make from the daily reports we receive from our paid correspondents. This saves us considerable space and gives the same information. We hope this change will be appreciated. It means more work for the editor, but it is better for our facilities.

Locating the Farm. A Pennsylvania subscriber asks our opinion on the best place to locate and successfully manage a poultry farm. Briefly put, we might say anywhere within 100 miles of a good city market. An egg farmer or enthusiast, naturally looks toward Boston, where eggs bring the best prices. The broiler and roaster man has New York city in mind. But it must not be supposed that even with the good prices these markets pay, that it is all profit to engage in business there. We would just as soon be located in the West, near a city, where feed is so much cheaper than here in the East, as we would in or near Boston or New York. In the South where the winter climate is so mild, and where land is cheap, if near a city or on the line of a steamboat or railway bound North, there is profit in both eggs and meat if an en-

terprising man is at the helm. For a retail trade, and there is where the money is made, a large town or city nearby the farm, that is within easy hauling distance, will be better than shipping to any city at wholesale rates. Beginners must not alone select their location by the prevailing market prices. They must take into consideration the cost of land, lumber, grain, etc. It is not the amount of income alone that must be considered. It is what we have left after paying the bills that is of the most importance.

Big Profit in Ducks. Dr. C. P. Byington, Cairo, N. Y., writes: "I am interested in that story of profits told by C. K. Nelson, in December 15 and January 15 numbers of A FEW HENS. As Mr. Nelson advertises in A FEW HENS eggs from hens which netted him an actual profit of more than \$14 per head, one at least of the readers of your paper would like to know how Mr. Nelson can raise 69 broilers to 10 weeks of age, and 102 pullets and 14 cockerels to the age of 6 months at no cost whatever?

Figuring on the same basis, I can tell almost as good a story. January 1st, 1898, I owned 20 ducks and 4 drakes. From the product of these ducks I have sold during the year as follows:

480 ducklings (10 to 12 weeks old),	\$242.56
20 ducks for breeding, 6 mos. old,	25.00
Eggs for hatching,	10.00
Feathers, 50 lbs., at 50 cts.,	25.00
	\$302.56

Expense:	
Feed for breeding stock,	\$36.00
Oil for incubators,	10.00
	\$46.00

Actual profit (?),	\$256.56
--------------------	-----------------

Or, \$12.75 per duck.

Now, Mr. Editor, if this were true, it would be very interesting reading. But, in my case, unfortunately, it is not true, in that it takes no account of the cost of raising the 500 ducks. As the feed consumed cost \$125, my actual profits therefrom are just that much less than the above figures, or \$131.56—\$6.57 per duck. It is not quite so big a story, but nearer the facts, and not so misleading. Should you see fit to publish this, kindly add that I have neither ducks nor eggs for sale from the above stock."

The doctor is to be congratulated on his excellent showing with ducks, even after making the necessary corrections which he does. But he has too hastily read Mr. Nelson's report to form a conclusion. If he will kindly look at the January 15th issue he will learn that \$60 are charged for feed for breeding stock, etc. (the etc. meaning, of course, the young stock raised). Mr. Nelson had 185 head of stock in all—69 broilers, 20 young pullets sold, 10 young cockerels sold, 82 pullets reserved, 4 cockerels reserved—and it cost him \$60 for their feed. The doctor had 500 head, not counting his breeding stock, and his feed cost but \$125. It is plainly seen that Mr. Nelson's feed bill, in considering number of fowls, was greatly in excess of that of the doctor. A FEW HENS does not wish to be misleading.

A Poultry Epidemic. The New York Sun, January 27, says several poultry farms, in and around Eastport, L. I., are struggling

with an epidemic that is ravaging their hen roosts. On the morning of January 26, Edward Tuttle, one of the largest duck farmers in that vicinity, found 150 of his sitting hens dead in the yard. These hens were used for hatching out duck eggs. Benjamin Seaman and Capt. Mott Tuttle have also suffered heavy losses. The cause of the epidemic is unknown, and all efforts to check it have so far proved fruitless. City dailies, as a rule, greatly exaggerate poultry matters, so we give the item for what it is worth. In the meantime, however, A FEW HENS will investigate, and hope to have a report in next issue.

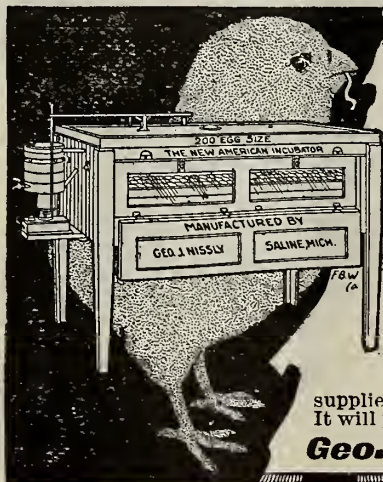
Editors and Poultry. Mr. Jacobs, of the *Poultry and Keeper*, is greatly exercised over the fact that there really are some poultry editors who can successfully run a poultry farm. He believes it wrong for an editor to raise poultry and advertise them for sale in his own journal—all of a sudden feeling a deep concern for the other advertisers. Mr. Jacobs forgets the past—forgot when he was interested in the manufacture of incubators—forgot how he took orders for poultry and scoured around the country in search of it to fill the orders. It was no sin in those days, but today it is a great mistake! Mr. Jacobs believes in selling incubator plans (bucking against the machines advertised in his paper.) Under the guise of *giving them away*, he ropes in the extra postage. The editor of A FEW HENS does not deal in incubator plans, but does own and operate a poultry farm—and that is just the difference between us two. There are some poultry editors who really cannot raise poultry.

Heavy Loss by Fire. Patrick MacAvoy, who conducts a large poultry farm about three miles from Trenton, N. J., in Eving township, met with a heavy loss by fire, January 7th. Early in the morning the fire was discovered, but soon got beyond con-

I breed for business and get business birds. S. C. W. LEGHORNS, strong, hardy birds and great layers. Pullets, '98 hatch, laid when four months old. W. WYANDOTTES, equal to the best, eggs, \$1.50 per 15. SUSQUEHANNA POULTRY FARM, A. J. LATTIN, Proprietor, Milford, N. Y.

Our Improved Pekin Ducks

largest, quickest growers, greatest layers; 11 eggs, \$1.50; 1000 eggs, \$60. Large fertility guaranteed. We sell eggs that will hatch. Four infertile eggs out of 210, reported by one of our customers last spring. Send for circular. B. P. ROCKS, Hunter and Rudd strains, 13 eggs, \$1.00; 100 eggs, \$5.00. MARYBROOK RANCH, Fannettsburg, Pa.



Hens lay eggs

when fed with the things eggs are made of. Eggs are principally albumen, produced by the hens from the protein they absorb from their food.

Bowker's Animal Meal gives the hen more protein and other egg-making material than any other similar food. Always sold in yellow bags and yellow packages.

For sale by dealers and by the manufacturers. Large package 25 cts. Pamphlet free.

The BOWKER Company
43 Chatham St., Boston.

ROSE COMB WHITE LEGHORNS, exclusively. Large strain; great layers. Buy the best. Cockerels, \$2.00 to \$3.00. Eggs, \$1.50 per 15. JOHN T. PHILLIPS, Dallas, Luzerne Co., Pa.

EGGS FROM PEN WHITE WYANDOTTES that have been laying since Nov. 14th, headed by cock from A. F. Hunter's great laying strain. \$1.25 per sitting. D. S. CLINGMAN, North Chicago, Illinois.

ROSE and SINGLE COMB BLACK MINORCAS, choice farm raised cockerels, \$2 and \$3 each; also a few choice White Wyandotte cockerels, hens and pullets, \$1.25 to \$2.00 each; eggs in season; circulars free. GEO. A. HURLBERT, Cuyler, N. Y.

"EVERYTHING FOR THE POULTRY YARD."

DO YOU WANT

A Successful Business Incubator or Brooder?

THE NEW AMERICAN

are high grade, moderate priced machines, built upon honor and sold under a positive guarantee. Do you want

POULTRY SUPPLIES?

We are headquarters. Most complete stock. Lowest prices. **Pure Bred Poultry and eggs for hatching.** Send 4c. in stamps for Nissly's 1899 Poultry Annual and Catalogue of "Everything for the Poultry Yard," nearly 100 pages, finely illustrated; tells all about Michigan Poultry Farm, our stock, supplies, etc., and gives valuable information on the care of poultry. It will pay you to have it. Established 15 years.

Geo. J. Nissly, 17 Adrian St., Saline Mich.

trol. Over 1000 Pekin ducks, reserved for breeding, were burned, besides nearly 1000 chickens, 12 cows, several calves, 18 large incubators, and a large quantity of turnips and potatoes. The loss will reach about \$25,000. Mr. MacAvoy raises ducks for the New York market. His season closed with the holidays, and he had few besides breeding ducks on hand. Before engaging in the duck business he kept a dairy farm. His large barns and nearly all his cows were destroyed by fire about nine years ago. The origin of this late fire is a mystery, as there had been no fire in the incubator house where the flames were discovered.

Yet, despite this big loss, Mr. MacAvoy did not lose heart. He at once ordered six 288-egg Prairie State Incubators, of W. V. Russ, 28 Vesey street, New York city, the New York agent, and will place another order for 50 additional machines by March 1st, by which time he will have his new buildings up. A FEW HENS always admires pluck, and the man who can face misfortune and loss as Mr. MacAvoy has, is of that stripe which make the ideal poultrymen. There are certainly too few men like him.

* * *

Fancy vs. Utility. It is an old subject, much discussed, and yet always full of interest. It has again been revived by a prominent New York fancier, in a private letter to us. He writes: "I am now breeding Wyandottes, Plymouth Rocks, Indian Games and Polish. I am going in for utility and market (confidential), but expect to keep up with the fancy end and have good stock. Unless one is a ——— or a ———, and can have \$1 and \$2 birds that will sell (owing to a name) for \$4 and \$5, there is no fortune. I expect to sell my birds at from \$1 to \$3. I tell you the money is in table eggs and meat, but at the same time one can get a few dollars from good, strong, healthy stock."

That's the idea exactly. It is the plan A FEW HENS believes in. We want less fanciers and more poultry breeders. The utility man need not confine his scope entirely to raising table eggs and meat. It is perfectly legitimate for him to offer for sale eggs for hatching and breeding stock from those utility fowls. He who can produce large egg records, or good market breeders, will very often be lacking in high scores in his flocks, but they will have a more worthy record than such which a poultry judge can give. The utility breeder selects his stock from among his best *workers*, and mates accordingly. The fancier mates according to the highest type of perfection, from an outside or ornamental view, regardless of utility qualities. It is plain that the one gradually increases the usefulness of his flocks, while the other lessens their value for eggs and meat. The first aim should be the utility qualities, and then breed as near the Standard requirements as possible without affecting the former. It is surprising how near, by that method, we can come to the claims of the Standard makers. Now it is easier to do that than to try to breed utility qualities into the exhibi-

tion fowl. Just as hard as it would be to make a kitchen maid out of a parlor lady. The woman taught from early girlhood to perform the various duties of the household, invariably becomes the valuable manager of the palace home. Use common sense—breed utility fowls—remember that poultry was created for food and not for show. If you want fine feathers alone, breed peacocks!

The Poultry Shows.

The editor of A FEW HENS did not get to any of the poultry shows this season. There were two reasons for this: First, A FEW HENS publishes no show reports. It is working in a different field. Second, the editor is kept too busy with a large correspondence, editorial duties on A FEW HENS, and the building up of our poultry farm. From early morning until late at night we are at our post, seldom getting off the place, excepting to go to the postoffice at night. Yet, withal that, we feel interested in these shows—interested because each year the larger ones are going deeper into the practical side. Boston set the pace for a large display of dressed poultry and eggs, and we learn that New York has done the same this year. Another feature of the large shows is the exhibition of incubators, brooders, bone cutters, and all sorts of appliances. All this means a furthering of the practical side. Few people who visit shows know anything of scores or scoring. They are mostly interested in seeing the several varieties, both alive and dressed, and then complete their joy in witnessing the thousands of chicks turned out by the incubators, and being huddled by the brooders. They are the attractions that draw the crowds.

We enjoy attending the large poultry exhibitions for the many poultrymen we meet there. We boast of very many friends in the fraternity—don't know of a single enemy—and our only regret is that time did not allow us to visit one or more of the shows to again grasp the hands of our brother editors, the learned judges, and the poultry breeders in general. This fellowship, which is so remarkably strong in the poultry world, stimulates us all on to renewed work, and these gatherings make gala days for us. The walls of our office are lined with the portraits of the most prominent poultrymen of the day, and even when deprived from seeing them in person, it is consoling that these prints keep their faces fresh in our memory.

G. & S. & B. W. I breed Golden and Silver Laced and Buff Wyandottes. If you need any stock of above write wants. Lots of C.K's. All birds farm raised. Breeder since '84. F. S. Tenney, Peterboro, N. H.

1st Cock, 1st Hen, 1st Pullet, and one special for best Buff Rock cock, on three entries at Newburg, January, 1899. We breed Buff Plymouth Rocks only. Eggs, 1.50 per 13; \$2.50 per 26. FORD BROS., Oak Hill, N. Y.

TOBACCO DUST.

Just the thing to put in nests and in the dust bath. Hens like it. It kills the lice, and clean hens will lay better than lousy ones. Two pounds, 25 cents; five pounds, 50 cents; ten pounds, 75 cents. Sample by mail, 10 cents. W. HAHMAN, Box 3, Altoona, Pa.

GILT EDGE FARM

**Mammoth Bronze Turkeys,
White Wyandottes,
Black Minorcas,**

B. P. Rocks and Pekin Ducks. Eggs, \$1.50 to \$2.00 per setting. New Book, "Practical Poultry Culture," 144 pages, 35 cents, post-paid. Thirteenth Annual Cat., free. R. W. DAVISON, Box 10, Glendola, N. J.



Hatch Chickens by Steam

with the simple, perfect, self-regulating

EXCELSIOR Incubator

Thousands in successful operation.
Guaranteed to hatch a larger percentage of fertile eggs, at less cost, than any other hatcher.



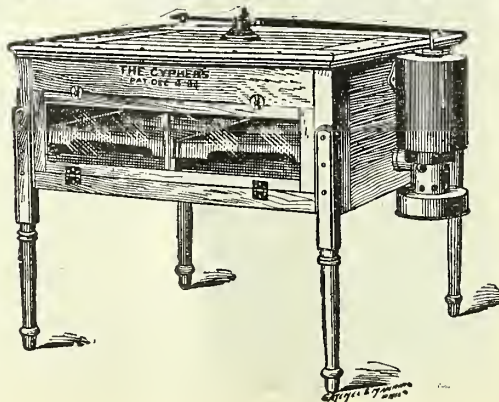
The WOODEN HEN

the most efficient incubator for raising poultry on a small scale ever invented. A perfect hatcher—automatic, self-regulating, thoroughly constructed, fully guaranteed. 50 egg capacity. Catalogs free.

Patentee and Sole Manufacturer
GEO. H. STAHL, 114-122 S. 6th St., Quincy, Ill.

Lowest-priced first-class hatcher made.

THE CYPHERS



REQUIRES
NO MOISTURE.

GOES

FREIGHT PREPAID.

Send 10 cents for our great catalogue. Finest and most instructive ever issued.

Cyphers Incubator Co:
Box 29, Wayland, N. Y.

Danger in Cold-Storage Stock.

Sixty cadets at the Pennsylvania Military College, Chester, Pa., were last month attacked with ptomaine poisoning, the result of eating cold-storage turkey. The birds, which were purchased in Delaware, had been kept in cold storage with the entrails in, and it is supposed that the meat of their bodies had thus become impregnated with the slight poison. After alleviating the sufferings of the cadets, the physicians held a consultation, and started an inquiry as to how the turkeys were shipped to the college. They learned that they had been received at the institution from a Chester commission house, and they had been consigned to it from Delaware. It appears they were cold-storage birds, and presumption was that through improper or imperfect storage decomposition had set in. The turkeys had been found to be especially tender and toothsome, but in the process of cooking the unwholesome meat had escaped detection by the taste.

Dr. Samuel Starr said that it was not a case of mineral poison, he was convinced, although no analysis of the remaining turkeys had been made, but the epidemic was due to a probable decomposition of the interior organs. Such cases have been reported, and Dr. Long related a similar experience, which came under his own observation.

A Canadian Report.

F. G. Lansdowne, Sussex, N. B., sends A FEW HENS a report of his poultry work for 1898. We regret that we have not the space this issue to publish it, for it gives a good showing, especially considering the low prices in his section. In the report Mr. Lansdowne charges the hens with 6 per cent interest on the total cost of the plant, as well as 10 cents an hour for actual work performed with the hens. Forty barrels of hen manure at 50 cents a barrel is one of the items. His receipts for the year were \$228.46; expense, \$139.69, leaving a profit of \$88.77, besides being paid for the labor he gave them, and interest on the money he put in the plant.

Diseases—Remedy and Prevention.

Valuable Pointers Regarding Roup Gathered from Our Exchanges—Gapes in Chickens—So-called Chicken Cholera—Hints on Prevention.

Adopt sanitary rules.

For genuine roup—the hatchet!

Never feed whole grain to a sick fowl.

Lazy hens are easy victims of disease.

Eggs from sick fowls are unfit for food.

Bowel troubles often come from eating snow.

It is the healthy hen that scratches for her food.

Inbreeding is what makes Standard fowls delicate.

Keep the sick fowl in a warm room while treating it.

Charcoal and grit are the best medicines for indigestion.

Study the feed when bowel troubles present themselves.

Bumble foot is generally caused by flying from high perches.

Before you fumigate the house, see that the fowls are out doors.

Keeping ailing fowls with the well ones is sure to spread contagion.

Aconite, kerosene and quinine are the sovereign remedies for colds.

Too close confinement to the house in winter is apt to develop colds.

An egg beaten up in milk makes a nourishing food for the debilitated fowl.

Breeding from fowls apparently cured of roup, is a good way to transmit the disease.

A battle with roup will bring discontent to the poultry keeper quicker than anything else.

There is no credit in the title of poultry doctor. Better have the honor of knowing how to prevent disease.

A pound of sulphur burned in each hen house once a month, will destroy disease germs which may be lurking in the building.

Cases of indigestion have been reported where the fowls have been kept on a raw-oats diet. It is best to cook or scald the oats.

An overcrowded hen house will compel the fowls to sweat at night, and then coming in contact with the cold, frosty weather in the morning, there is bound to be sickness.

W. Theo. Wittman says many cases of so-called cholera are simply a form of acute indigestion, the result of a mon-

otonous and never varied grain diet, and a lack of grit.

Roup, says Mr. Davidson, is a disease of the glands and mucous membrane of the head and throat of fowls. It appears in various forms at first, but in advanced stages almost always assumes the canker form.

U. Grant Davidson says it is not necessary that every cold should develop into roup, nor will every form of cold do so, even if neglected; the best way is to take every precautionary measure at once, and not wait for developments.

W. B. German, in *Practical Poultryman*, recommends an ointment of lard and kerosene for colds in the heads of

White P. Rocks. Jersey Beauties. Eggs per 13 (Hawkins), \$2.00; (Empire), \$1.00. REV. W. T. DORWOOD, Stelton, N. J. (Member A. W. P. R. Club).

A. G. Wilkinson, Clifford, Mich., breeder of W. F. Bl. Spanish poultry. Best known egg producers. Eggs for hatching, \$1 pr. 13. Birds \$1.50 each.

Black Langshans. Early maturing, prolific laying stock. 13 eggs, \$1.25; \$3 for 39, from high scoring birds. JOHN TUFTS, Rockport, Mass.



THE WINTER LAYER

will need a stimulant when the weather gets cold and everything is covered with snow. The very best stimulant known for egg production is

Pioneer Clover Meal

It is finely ground clover hay which has been carefully cured so as to preserve its natural green color and aroma. It is ground by our special made machinery and packed in new sacks. Prices, 50 lbs. \$1.00; 100 lbs. \$2.00; 5 lbs. 25c. Send for FREE sample book; endorsed by all leading poultry editors.

THE BENNETT & MILLETT COMPANY,
Box H. Gouverneur, N. Y.

100 Per Cent. Hatched.

In a recent hatching contest in which there were over 400 trials the hatch was 100 per cent. in 19 cases with

PETALUMA INCUBATORS.

This machine has been demonstrated to be as near absolute perfection as can be attained. The regulation of heat, air and moisture have been proven perfect. See our new egg tray and other improvements. We pay freight anywhere in the U. S. FREE catalog.

PETALUMA INCUBATOR CO.
Box 256, Petaluma, Cal.

RABBITS

THE ONLY LOW-COST BOOK ON THE RABBIT ever published to our knowledge, is "The Rabbit: How to Select, Breed and Manage the Rabbit for Pleasure or Profit," by W. N. Richardson, Secretary of the American Belgian Hare Club, and a man of long experience with Rabbits. Second edition now ready, nicely illustrated, enlarged and much improved. Price 25 cts., or with AMERICAN POULTRY ADVOCATE one year 40 cts.

CLARENCE C. DEPUY, Publisher,
314-320 East Onondaga St., Syracuse, N. Y.

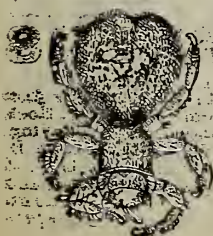
RICE'S LICE PAINT

FOR POULTRY, LIVE STOCK AND HOUSE PLANTS.

Kills Lice, Mites, Fleas, Ticks and Bed Bugs. Easy to use—Certain to kill. Will destroy all the lice in your poultry house and on your fowls in one night, by simply spraying or painting the roosts, nest boxes, dropping boards and floor. Cannot injure the fowls. Cheapest Lice Destroyer on the market. HALF GAL. CANS, each 50 CENTS; GALLON CANS, each 75 CENTS.

Send for circulars and testimonials describing this wonderful Paint.

For sale by JOSEPH BRECK & SONS, Boston, Mass.; HARVEY SEED CO., Buffalo, N. Y.; C. C. RICE & CO., 178 Michigan Street, Chicago, Illinois.



fowls. He says every evening, or once a day, give each patient about one-half teaspoonful, also anoint throat, face and top of head.

W. Theo. Wittman, in *American Poultry Advocate*, says chicken cholera formerly was anything that killed chickens by the dozen. But we are beginning to learn better, and are nearing the period when we begin to doubt that our poultry yards ever saw a genuine case of chicken cholera.

Roup in fowls is like cold in the human system, says H. C. Austin. If you neglect it, you will soon have a bad case. A true poultryman, when he sees his fowls have cold, will keep them up and give them a little tonic for a few days.

When the fowl acts dumpish, has a poor appetite, and seems generally out of sorts, it is best to pen it alone for a few days, and give a family liver pill (Parsons' Purgative Pills are excellent for this). Such precaution will generally ward off a serious spell of sickness.

After roup once gets a foothold in the flock, it makes its appearance in the canker form, without any symptoms, says Mr. Davidson, in *American Poultry Journal*. A fowl to all appearances will be free from disease today, show no symptoms of cold or other disorder, and in three days from now, when you pick it up for examination, give forth a stench that will almost strangle you, so rapid is the progress of this disease in some cases.

H. C. Austin, in *American Poultry Journal*, says it makes him "tired" to hear a man, who professes to be a poultryman, advocate the hatchet for sick fowls. He has found roup and canker in its worst form and succeeded in curing them. A FEW HENS believes in doctoring slight ailments, but we do not believe there ever was a permanent cure for a case of genuine roup or cholera. A contagious disease cannot be eradicated from the system, but will tell on future generations.

L. D. Gwynn, in *Reliable Poultry Journal*, says the best remedies he has found for gapes are turpentine, asafoetida, camphor and garlic, and that spirits of turpentine can be used to good advantage by external applications, both in gapes and roup. Asafoetida can be used in the drinking water or mixed with the food. Take equal parts of asafoetida and pulverized yellow gentian and mix with the food. Garlic mixed in food is a sovereign European remedy, and is used almost exclusively in some localities, especially among the game keepers. It is put in the drinking water, as well as mixed with the food.

White Wyandottes

98 EGGS PER HEAD from Nov. 1 to April 1. All stock carefully bred and selected. Fine vigorous Cockerels at \$1.50. A few very choice ones for \$2.50. All farm raised. GEO. W. CONABLE, Cortland, N. Y.

COBURN'S BARRED PLY-MOUTH ROCKS

and WHITE WYANDOTTES

Bred for utility and beauty combined. Young and old stock for sale that will give you good layers and table poultry. Circular free. F. A. P. Coburn, E-759 Stevens St., Lowell, Mass.

Our Market Report.

An Accurate Account of the Highest, Lowest and Average Prices for the Best Market Stock, Paid During the Month of January—Goods Not up to the Standard Received Proportionately Less.

NEW YORK.

Furnished A Few Hens by Dulany & Branin, 41 Hewitt Ave., New York City.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Fresh eggs.....	31	19	24
Philada. Roasting Chickens, 16	15	15	15 3-4
Broilers.....	24	22	22 3-4
Fowls.....	12 1-2	10 1-2	11 1-4
Ducks.....	13	10	12
Turkeys.....	18	14	16
Capons.....	19	18	18 3-8

PHILADELPHIA.

Furnished A Few Hens by Philip Quigley, 303 South Front St., Philadelphia, Pa.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Fresh Eggs.....	27	18	21
Hens, live.....	10	9	9 1-2
Hens, dressed.....	10	8	9 1-2
Roasting Chickens, live....	10	9	9 3-4
Roasting Chickens, dressed	11	9	10
Old Roosters, live.....	7	6	6 3-4
Old Roosters, dressed.....	7	6	6 3-4
Ducks, live.....	10	9	9 3-4
Ducks, dressed.....	10	8	8 3-4
Geese, live.....	10	8	9
Geese, dressed.....	9	8	8 1-2
Turkeys, live.....	10	8	9 1-2
Turkeys, dressed.....	13	11	12 1-4

BOSTON.

Furnished A Few Hens by Bennett, Rand & Co., 20 North Market St., Boston, Mass.

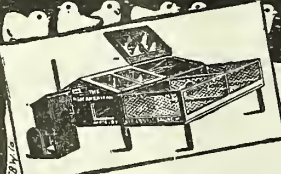
	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Eggs, nearby and Cape	32	23	26 3-4
Eggs, Eastern.....	29	20	23 1-2
Eggs, Vt. and N. H.....	29	19	23 1-2
Eggs, West'n, selected fresh	28	18 1-2	22 1-3
Eggs, Southern.....	27	18	21 1-2
Eggs, Refrigerator	22	14 1-2	18 1-4
Eggs, Lined.....	19	17	18 2-3

NORTHERN AND EASTERN.

Chickens, dressed.....	16	14	14 1-2
Chickens, live.....	9	8	8 1-2
Fowls, dressed.....	13	10	11 1-6
Fowls, live.....	10	9	9 1-2
Roosters, live.....	6	5	5 1-6
Ducks, dressed.....	11	10	10 1-6
Geese, dressed.....	12	10	10 1-6

WESTERN DRY-PICKED:

Turkeys, drawn.....	13	11 1-2	12 1-2
Turkeys, undrawn	12 1-2	10 1-2	12 1-6
Turkeys, old toms.....	10	9	9 1-2
Turkeys, heavy.....	11 1-2	11	11 1-4
Chickens.....	12	10	11 1-6
Fowls.....	11	9	10 3-4
Ducks.....	8	8	8
Geese.....	9	9	9
Old cocks.....	6	5 1-2	5 1-6
Capons, large.....	16	14	14 1-4
Capons, small and medium	12	12	12
Capons, slips.....	10	10	10




Oldest Established
Poultry Farm and
Supply House in
the West.

POULTRY SUPPLIES

"EVERYTHING FOR THE POULTRY YARD."

The New American Incubators & Brooders

are not toys, but successful business machines, built upon honor and sold under a positive guarantee. Pure Bred Poultry and eggs for hatching. Send 4 cents in stamps for Nissly's 1899 Poultry Annual and Catalogue of "Everything for the Poultry Yard." Nearly 100 pages, finely illustrated; full of information; you need it. Address, GEO. J. NISSLY, 17 Adrian St., Saline, Michigan.



CHICAGO.

Furnished A Few Hens by Sprague Commission Co., 218 So. Water St., Chicago, Ill.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Eggs, fresh.....	26	15 1-2	14 1-2
Eggs, held fresh.....	24	15	19
Eggs, recandled.....	27	17 1-2	21 3-4
Eggs, repickled.....	15	13	14 1-2
Eggs, cold storage.....	21	15	18 1-2
Chickens, hens, scalded	8 1-2	6 1-2	7 1-2
Chickens, hens, alive	8	7 1-2	7 1-4
Chickens, frozen stock	8	6 1-2	7 1-5
Spring chickens, scalded	9	7 1-2	8 4-5
Spring chickens, dry-picked	8 1-2	7	7 1-4
Spring chickens, live	8 1-2	7	7 1-2
Broilers.....	11	10	10 1-4
Capons.....	15	11	12 3-4
Capons, slips.....	9	9	9
Roosters, old, live.....	4 1-2	4	4 1-4
Roosters, young, live	7 1-2	7	7 2-5
Roosters, dressed.....	5	5	5
Ducks, live.....	7 1-2	6	7
Ducks, dressed.....	8 1-2	6 1-2	7 1-2
Geese, live, dozen.....	\$5	\$4.50	\$4.82
Geese, dressed.....	8	6 1-2	7 3-4
Turkey hens, dressed	11	10 1-2	10 4-5
Turkey hens, live.....	8	7	7 1-4
Turkey gobblers, y'n'g, dr.	10 1-2	10	9 1-2
Turkey gobblers, dressed	8	8	8

Will exchange English Bull Terrier, dog pup, for Buff Leghorns, Box 415, Punxsutawney, Pa.

STANDARD and business bred White Wyandottes and B. P. Rocks; eggs, \$1.00 per 15; \$1.75 per 30. T. B. BURDICK, Little Genesee, N. Y.

90 varieties choice Poultry, Eggs, Pigeons and Hares. Natural colored 60-page book to above, and numerous information, for only 10c. Handsome price-list free. J. A. BERGEY, Telford, Penna.

OTTER CREEK POULTRY FARM, Vergennes, Vt. Light Brahmas, B. P. Rocks and W. Wyandottes; brown eggs and bred for business. Eggs that will hatch, 15 for \$1; 60 for \$3; 100 for \$4.

ELEVEN Mammoth Pekin ducks and three drakes. Ducks ready to lay. Picked from two hundred choice birds for private breeding. Must sell; best offer. C. H. LEONARD, Elkins, N. H.

EGGS Barred Rocks. White Wyandottes. \$1.00 for 13. Pekin Ducks, \$1.00 for 12. W. H. Turkeys, Embden Geese, 25 cents each. WINFIELD DARLING, So. Setauket, L. I., N. Y.

BUFF P. ROCKS. Nuggets only. They are no strangers. Won Pa. State Medal at recent show; winning gold special Red and Blue Ribbons for six years. Eggs, 13, \$1.50; 30, \$2.50; \$4.00 for 50. KERLIN & SON, Box 4, Shenkel, Pa.

THOROUGHbred

S. C. W. Leghorns, W. Wyandottes and Am. Dominiques. Bred for great laying. Eggs, \$1 per sitting; \$3 per 100. Stock for sale. F. J. BARNES, Turin, N. Y.

BUFF PLY. ROCKS

Bred for utility and beauty. Orders booked for shipment when desired, at \$1.00 per 13. A few Cockerels left which I will sell at \$1.00 to close out at once. H. F. KEGARIES, Roaring Spring, Pa.

A PRESENT

For your Wife, Sister or Best Girl.

To introduce my stock, a large package Plush pieces (for fancy work) free with every order. Eggs, Pekin ducks, \$1.00 per 9. Eggs, B. P. Rocks, \$1.00 per 11. A few choice Cockerels at \$1.00 each. C. H. HARDEN, Jr., McConnellsville, N. Y.

Heavy Laying

S. C. BROWN LEGHORNS and PEKIN DUCKS.

Farm-raised thoroughbred stock, bred for eggs only. \$1.50 per sitting; two sittings, \$2.50. Breeders for sale after June. F. CHRISTMAN, Sellersville, (Bucks Co.,) Pa.

HEAVY LAYERS

Strong, Vigorous Stock.

I have six W. P. Rock pullets for \$10.00, or \$2.00 each. Fine white birds; try them. Also B. P. Rock and S. C. W. Leghorn pullets, \$2.00 each. All laying. I will sell eggs for hatching at \$1.00 setting from B. P. Rock and S. C. White Leghorns. This is good stock that is bred for their good laying qualities and not inbred. I have introduced new blood of known quality each year, procured from different breeders. Satisfaction guaranteed.

FRANK A. D. BULLARD, Segreganset, Mass.

People We Know.

Facts and News Gleaned Especially for A FEW HENS About People We Know.

The Boepple Button Co., Muscatine, Iowa, offer a novelty in "Pearl Grit."

J. H. Jones, Streator, Ills., is offering wire netting at greatly cut-down prices.

J. M. Wilcox & Son, Wilkes Barre, Pa., disposed of their entire Black Minorca stock to L. J. Williams, York, Pa.

The automatic grit, shell and bone feeder, manufactured by F. P. Pulsifer, Natick, Mass., is receiving high endorsement.

"Pertinent Points for Poultry People" is a manual that will be sent free by writing L. B. Darling Fertilizer Co., Pawtucket, R. I.

D. Lincoln Orr, Orr's Mills, N. Y., not only sells first-class poultry, but deals in poultry supplies of all kinds. Write him for catalogue.

Attention is called to the advertisement of the Cyphers Incubator. Send 10 cents for their catalogue, which, besides, is an instructive manual for beginners.

The Feather gives an excellent illustration of a Barred Plymouth Rock in its December issue. It is the finest piece of designing we have yet seen by Mr. Howard.

The Harvey Seed Company, Buffalo, N. Y., who advertise in A FEW HENS, is an old and reliable concern, and it will pay to send to them for their catalogue.

A souvenir, a handsome memorandum book, gotten out by the American White Plymouth Rock Club, has been kindly sent us by the secretary, Frank Heck.

F. P. C. Chick Manna, advertised in A FEW HENS, is just the thing for brooder chicks. It is the first 10 days' food. A FEW HENS' experiments last year proved it to be invaluable.

With the January issue, the *American Poultry Journal*, Chicago, Ills., begins Volume 30. The *Journal* is not only the oldest, but one of the neatest, best edited and valuable of our exchanges.

The famous No. 61 Light Brahma hen shown in an advertising column is a wonder. The Hartnest Brahmas are carefully bred for heavy egg production, and are big bargains at the prices asked.

There was a typographical error December issue in the advertisement of S. C. White Leghorn cockerels, by G. E. Chalfant, Hammoniton, N. J. The price should have been \$1.50 each, instead of \$1.00.

Ford Bros., breeders of Buff Plymouth Rocks, Oak Hill, N. Y., have reserved a fine lot of birds from which they will sell eggs in the spring. They believe in combining egg records with standard markings.

Arthur E. Felch, of the firm of I. K. Felch & Son, Natick, Mass., won 23 regular and special prizes on 23 birds, at the Middlesex Poultry Fanciers' Association. The Felches combine beauty and utility in their stock.

A FEW HENS is glad to report the resurrection of the *Southern Fancier*, Atlanta, Ga. It starts out again with renewed energy, and adopts the brevity plan of editing the paper. Here's hoping it may be a howling success.

J. A. Bennett & Sons, Gouverneur, N. Y., manufacturers of the \$5 Champion Brooder, have issued a complete catalogue which all interested should have. This is not only a cheap brooder, but one that is fully practical.

Frank S. Harden, McConnellsville, N. Y., a new advertiser in A FEW HENS, sends a "package of plush pieces for fancy work" with every order. We have seen the plush pieces—and your wife, sister or sweetheart will be delighted with them.

A. J. Silberstein, proprietor of Hartnest Farm, Framingham, Mass., has just issued a descriptive pamphlet showing the features of his heavy laying Light Brahma stock, as well as pointers on how he feeds and cares for them to produce best results. This catalogue is one of the handsomest we have yet seen issued by any poultry firm.

The "Wooden Hen" is no larger than a live hen, yet has double the capacity. It weighs only 25 pounds, has a capacity of 50 eggs, and while not a toy, is just as amusing, besides being instructive as well. Write Geo. H. Stahl, Quincy, Ills., and ask him for a copy of his handsome little booklet describing the "Wooden Hen," also his large catalogue of the Model Excelsior Incubator.

The enterprising manufacturers of Pioneer Clover Meal, Gouverneur, N. Y., have gotten

out a handsome calendar for 1899. It represents—in coloring next to that of a genuine oil painting—an old New England homestead, and is about as pretty an office ornament as one could wish.

A FEW HENS acknowledges receipt of the first annual catalogue of the American White Plymouth Rock Club. It is replete with a list of members and breeders, portraits, history of the breed, characteristics and abilities, contributions, etc. It will be sent free to all who mention that they saw this in A FEW HENS, by addressing Frank Heck, Secretary, New Albany, Indiana.

We wish to call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of W. J. Adam in this issue. This gentleman is advertising a green bone cutter over his own name. Wish to explain that this Adam Bone Cutter was formerly the Premier and is therefore not entirely unknown to our readers. Mr. Adam recently purchased the entire business and removed it from Cazenovia, N. Y., to his factory at Joliet, Ill., where with every facility for manufacture he is prepared to supply the demand for this popular machine. This is the machine, and the only one of its

Poultry Farm for Sale. 21 acres; 15 cleared. Buildings to hold 150 hens; incubator cellar; brooder house; fruit. Price, \$1900. Write. WINFIELD DARLING, So. Setauket, L. I., N. Y.

BRD. and W. P. Rocks and W. Wyant; handsome brown eggs from first-class stock; not inbred; \$1 for 13, \$4 per 100. E. D. Barker, Westerly, R. I.

WHITE WYANDOTTES.

Eggs, \$1 per 13. Wm. F. Stroud, Merchantville, N. J.

BASSLER'S strain of premium fowls are noted as big layers. A few choice B. P. Rock and Rose and S. C. Brown Leghorn Cockerels. Price to close out at once, \$2 to \$3. Address, W. E. Bassler, "Wayside Home" Poultry Yards, Middleburg, N. Y.

Black and White Langshans

Best winter layers. Standard bred with strong utility qualities. 17 first and second prizes won this season. GEO. P. COFFIN, Freeport, Maine.

BLACK LANGSHANS, White Wyandottes and Buff Leghorn Eggs for hatching, from vigorous, high scoring and great laying stock, at \$1.50 per 15; \$2.50 per 30. Fair hatch guaranteed. Hens and Pullets, \$1.00; good breeders. Fine Cockerels, \$2.00. JOSEPH NOSS, New Castle, Pa.




DON'T BUY A PIG IN A POKE.

Don't buy any incubator and pay for it until you have given it a thorough trial.

Some Incubators are made only to sell and were never intended to hatch chickens. and you pay for them only when fully satisfied. They are the easiest to handle; a child can run one successfully. We send the largest catalogue and best treatise on incubation and poultry culture published for 5c. Plans for Brooders, Poultry Houses, etc., for 25c.

VON GULIN INCUBATOR CO. 23 Adams St. Delaware City, Del.



EVANS VEGETABLE AND ROOT CUTTERS

These machines meet a long felt want among poultrymen. They make possible the feeding of green and succulent food in the dead of winter when every spear of grass and green thing is killed by frost. They convert all kinds of roots into fine particles like angle worms that are greedily eaten by all fowls, big and little. The feeding of vegetables thus prepared doubles the egg product and saves fully 50% of the grain feed. It makes hens lay in winter when eggs are worth the most money. Endorsed by all leading poultrymen of the country. Buy one and make money from your fowls this winter. Made in four sizes. Price, \$1. and up. Write for free circulars.

EVANS MANUFACTURING CO., Dept. R, YPSILANTI, MICH.

SHERIDAN'S



POWDER

It will keep your poultry strong and healthy. It will make young pullets lay early. Worth its

NOTHING ON EARTH WILL

MAKE HENS LAY LIKE SHERIDAN'S

CONDITION POWDER

weight in gold for moulting hens, and prevents all diseases. Eggs are larger and more fertile. They succeed best in raising poultry for profit, who commence with little chicks; giving them twice a week an even teaspoonful of Sheridan's Condition Powder, gradually increasing the dose until full grown.

No Matter What Kind of Foods You Use!

SHERIDAN'S CONDITION POWDER

Is needed with it to assure perfect assimilation of the food elements necessary to produce eggs. It is absolutely pure; Highly concentrated; Most economical, because such small doses; No other kind one-fourth as strong; In quantity it costs less than one-tenth cent a day per hen. Sold by Druggists, Grocers and Feed Dealers. Large cans are the most economical to buy.

If You Can't Get it near Home, send to us. Ask first.

We send postpaid one pack for 25 cts; five \$1.00. A two-pound can \$1.20; Six cans \$5.00, exp. paid. Sample copy "best poultry paper" sent free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.

character, so far as we know, that is equipped with ball bearings, which makes it run so easily. We know this machine to be a good and reliable one, and can say that Mr. Adam comes to our columns well recommended and we ask generous treatment for him at the hands of our readers.

The DeKalb Fence Co., of De Kalb, Illinois, who are old advertisers in these columns and who are well known to our readers as manufacturers of woven wire fencing, have just notified us of a new departure in their business. Foreseeing the necessity of a better grade of poultry fencing, yet cheaper to the user, they have placed upon the market the M. M. S. Poultry Fence. The superior point of this fencing, we are informed, is that it is a true fence and not a netting; this means that while the fence is completely interwoven it has continuous lateral wires which are interspersed at intervals with twisted cables running the entire length of the fence. The advantage of this arrangement is obvious, as it admits of the complete and thorough stretching of the fence. It does away entirely with the top and bottom rail required by the old style netting and requires but half the number of posts. If you are thinking about using any poultry fence write these people for circulars and prices.

Every poultryman of experience knows that certain food will produce fat in hens while others will produce eggs. They know that fat is fatal to best results in egg production, and that eggs from excessively fat hens are deficient in vitality and will not produce strong, healthy chicks. The obviation of these several difficulties lies in the striking of the happy medium—the feeding of a food that will sustain the hen in strong, healthy working condition, and with a tendency to egg production; something that is rich in egg making material. Such a food would be a balanced ration; one which contained the proper food elements in just the correct proportions to produce the best results. A poultry food of that kind is being prepared by the Harvey Seed Company, of Buffalo, N. Y., who are large dealers in all kinds of poultry supplies. This Electric Poultry Food is made entirely of cereals and produces excellent results for laying hens and growing chicks. Write these people for their catalogue of Pigeon and Poultry Supplies which tells all about it.

Nature forms an egg so that it will hatch if its laws are not transgressed. If one rushes a strong current of air through a machine, and carries out the natural moisture which is supplied from the eggs, then one must replace it by artificial means, and who can tell just when to put in? Just how much or how little? This is where so many operators fail. Only experience can help one in such a case as this, and then failure is often the result.

This is where the manufacturers of the STAR INCUBATOR claim superiority, because none of this guess work is necessary in the running of the STAR INCUBATOR. It makes no difference where these incubators are run, from the cellar to the highest building, from sea level to mountain top, it has all been tried and the result is always the same—"Ventilation is perfect; no moisture needed." The inventor of this machine, Mr. G. A. McFetridge, is so well known as a poultry and incubator expert as to need no introduction or endorsement from us. It is made by the Star Incubator and Brooder Co., Bound Brook, N. J. The company show their own faith in their incubator by giving an absolute guarantee to return purchase money if the machine fails to give entire satisfaction in every particular. Our readers will do well to send for the catalogue published by this firm—it contains much valuable information about moisture, ventilation, etc., and is sent free to all poultrymen.

Heavy Laying Minorcas.

Our Black Minorcas are mated and bred for heavy egg production. Eggs for hatching, \$1.50 per sitting. Stock for sale. Address,
C. K. NELSON, Hammonton, N. J.



POULTRY PAPER, illus'd, 20 pages, 25 cts. per year. 4 months trial 10 cts. **Sample Free.** 64-page practical poultry book free to yearly subscribers. Book alone 10 cts. **Catalogue** of poultry books free. *Poultry Advocate*, Syracuse, N. Y.



Black Minorcas (see cut), B. and W. Ply. Rocks, L. Brahmas, Bl. W. and Br. Leghorns, Bl. Cochins, B. Langshans, W. Wyandottes, Houdans, W. Polish, Pekin Ducks, at \$1 per set. All our fowls are bred for egg laying as well as fancy points, good hatch guaranteed. Send for new illus. W. W. SHAMPAORE, catalog. Box G, Little Silver, N. J.

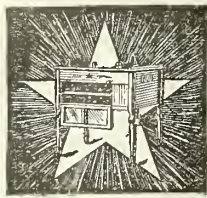
SEED DUE BILL FREE

To get new customers to test my seeds I will mail my handsome catalogue for 1899, lithographed and beautifully illustrated, and a 10c. Due Bill, good for 10c. worth of seeds for trial, absolutely free. It is full of bargains. All the Best Seeds, Bulbs, Plants, Roses, new Fruits, Farm Seeds, Potatoes, etc., at lowest prices. Ten Great Novelties offered without names. I will pay \$50. FOR A NAME for each. Don't buy your stock until you see this new catalogue. Several varieties shown in colors. Great inducements for orders this year. You will be surprised at my bargain offers. Send your address on Postal to-day. Tell your friends to send too. Old customers will receive a copy. **F. B. MILLS, Seedsman, Box 13, Rose Hill, N. Y.**

AMERICAN TRAP NEST BOX.

Very simple; easy to build; directions for building, \$1.00. By its use I have brought my strain of S. C. White Leghorns to lay 200 eggs per year, and win at New York and Boston. Stock for sale; circulars free. **J. H. WOODHEAD,**
Pleasant Poultry Yards, Box 226, Leicester, Mass.

Suits Everybody.



We guarantee the Star Incubator to be perfectly satisfactory to every purchaser or return your money without question. No other incubator company gives such a guarantee. They want their incubators to stay sold—we don't, unless the buyer is satisfied that they are the best on earth and satisfactory in every way.

NO MOISTURE to be supplied. *Catalogue free.*

STAR INCUBATOR & BROODER COMPANY,
Bound Brook, New Jersey.

LANCASHANS

will lay the year round; cold weather don't stop them. I have some grand birds for sale.

COCKERELS, \$2.00 to \$5.00 each.

EGGS, \$2.00 a sitting; three sittings for \$5.00.
C. I. DROWNE, Sandown, N. H.

ORR'S CLEAR GRIT STANDARD FOR QUALITY

Aids Digestion and Prevents Disease.
Two sizes, fowls and chicks, 100 lbs, 75c; 500 lbs, \$3. Crushed oyster shells, two sizes—100 lbs, 75c; 500 lbs, \$3. Woodhid Farm cut clover hay—100 lbs, \$2; 500 lbs, \$1. Pioneer clover meal—100 lbs, \$2; 50 lbs, \$1; 5 lbs, 25c; Orr's chick meal—100 lbs \$2.50; 50 lbs \$1.50; 25 lbs, \$1. Orr's egg producer (a food)—100 lbs, \$1.50; 50 lbs, 80c. Cracked wheat (first quality)—100 lbs, \$2.25; 50 lbs, \$1.25. Beef scraps—100 lbs, \$3; 50 lbs, \$1.75. Charcoal—10c per lb. Bowker's animal meal—100 lbs, \$2.25; 50 lbs, \$1.25. Bradley's superior meat meal—100 lbs, \$2.25; 50 lbs, 1.25. Smith & Romaine's B. B.—100 lbs, \$2.25; 50 lbs, \$1.25. Cracked peas—100 lbs, \$3.00; 50 lbs, \$1.50. Poultry wire netting cheap; send for price. American Standard of Perfection, postpaid, \$1. Incubators, brooders, etc., at factory prices. **White Wyandottes and White Indian Games**—For the farmer, broilerman or fancier they are unexcelled. **White Crested Black and Buff Laced Polish**—The most beautiful of all the feathered race. **Light and Dark Brahma Bantams**—The king of all Bantams; imported stock; grand quality. Send for booklet and special ton rates.

D. LINCOLN ORR, ORR'S MILLS, N. Y.

EGGS. BLACK LANGSHANS. Will sell a few settings from two grand pens. Large, vigorous, healthy females mated to Standard-weight males, \$2.00 per setting; three settings, \$5.00. **H. COTTERILL, Westfield, N. J.**

"Best Liver Pill Made." Parsons' Pills

Positively cure biliousness and sick headache, liver and bowel complaints. They expel all impurities from the blood. Delicate women find relief from using them. Price 25 cts.; five \$1.00. Pamphlet free. **I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston.**



A Hen's Nest

is only interesting when full of eggs. The number of eggs depends upon what you feed the hen. She will lay twice as many if fed **Green Cut Bone & Mann's Granite Crystal Grit.** **MANN'S NEW BONE CUTTER** prepares bone in the best way with least expenditure of money and muscle. We make Bone Cutters, Clover Cutters, Feed Trays and Grit. The best of their kind. Cash or Installments. **Catalogue Free.** **F. W. MANN CO., Box 67, Milford, Mass.**

Prize Winning Barred Plymouth Rocks

Ten Pullets bred and owned by me average score over 94 points each, and the birds that bred them are in my this seasons breeding yards.

Utility Prolific Layers.

Cockerels bred from Red Headed Brown Eggs, \$3.00 to \$5.00 each. **F. E. COLBY, Bow Mills, N. H.**

A HUNDRED PER CENT



of the fertile eggs, is not an unusual hatch for the **MONITOR INCUBATOR.** Proof of this and many other things of unquestioned value to the poultry man will be found in our 80 page catalogue. Sent for 4 cents in stamps. Address,
THE MONITOR CO., Box 10, Moodus, Conn.

SEND

for my catalog. I just won 4 firsts Rose Comb Brown and 3 firsts Single Comb Brown Leghorns, have won on all breeds mentioned. I can prove I have the greatest winners and layers in the world.

Barred and White Rocks, Big White Wyandottes, Black Minorcas, Bl. Langshans, Buff Leghorns, Pekin Ducks, Belgian Hares, Light Brahmas. EGGS, \$1.00 per 13. **W. W. KULP, Pottstown, Pa.**

HENS DON'T LAY

voluntarily. The food may go to make meat and bone or it may go to eggs, and the secret of getting eggs when wanted is to turn the food into the proper channel. **Lee's Tonic Powder** acts on the digestive organs. When fed to cows it increases the flow of milk and when fed to hens it fills the egg basket. Not a stimulant—nothing else like it on the market. We send a 25c. box of the Tonic and a 30c. can of **Lee's Lice Killer** as samples, for 30 cts. The Lice Killer kills all body lice, mites, etc., on poultry by simply painting it on roosts. Our 68-page book on "Insects" and diseases of poultry, free. Address nearest office.



GEO. H. LEE CO., 1110 Farnam St., OMAHA, NEB. 178 Michigan St., CHICAGO. 68 Murray St., NEW YORK.

EGGS FOR HATCHING

From good stock. **White Plymouth Rocks, White Wyandottes, S. C. White Leghorns and Leghorn Light Brahma Cross**, 15 for \$1.50; 30 for \$2.50. All eggs shipped in the "Castello Box". Eggs at house, 13 for \$1.00. **W. W. OSGOOD, Poultry Supply Dealer, No. 16 Mechanic Street, Haverhill, Mass.**



INCUBATORS.

Gold and Silver Medals.

Blue and Red Ribbons.

Diplomas and Sweepstakes.

Our 1898 catalogue tells you all about the world's greatest Incubators and Brooders. Send for one. All machines warranted.

PRAIRIE STATE INCUBATOR CO., HOMER CITY, PA.

Bennett, Rand & Co., Boston Commission Merchants, who advertise in A FEW HENS, never speculate, but devote their entire attention to consignments, and send returns as soon as goods are sold. In order to facilitate prompt returns, shippers should mark each package plainly with their name and also the weights, both gross and tare.

To be honest, Messrs *American Agriculturist*, we do not like your "photo from life in natural colors" of the "prize-winning Brown Leghorn cock"—given out with the December 24th issue. The general coloring of the bird is good, but that comb is not *Standard*—and even us plain poultrymen would not admit such a comb on a bird for "utility only."

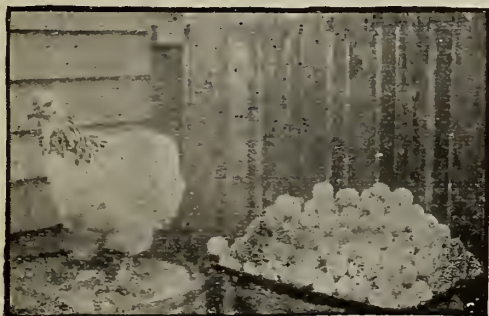
The attention of our readers is called to an advertisement of tobacco dust elsewhere in our issue. The value of tobacco as a remedy for insect pests of all kinds ought to make this article of special interest to poultrymen. It is so easily scattered in the nest boxes that its usefulness is quite evident, and if put in the dust bath the hens apply it to themselves, and probably just where they need it.

A correspondent writes: "Never before in history was there a case where a defeated and captive enemy received such generous treatment as we gave the Spaniards. Other nations are astounded. Equally astonishing are the hatches made by the Prairie State incubator. Never before in history has there been so successful machines put on the market for hatching chicks, ducks, turkeys, etc. All nations have benefited by it and all nations praise it."

The judges at the recent exposition in Omaha, and also those at the 1898 poultry show in Chicago, awarded the Successful incubator the highest honors. This machine is generally so well known that it needs no introduction. It is only necessary to say that it does just as good work as usual, is as well made as usual, and sells at as reasonable a price as usual. The 160 page catalogue issued by the Des Moines Incubator Company, Des Moines, Iowa, manufacturers of the Successful incubator, is a most thoroughly useful book for the poultrymen. Mailed to any address for 6 cents.

It is useless for us to again repeat what we have time and again said in praise of Pioneer Clover Meal. We like it better than ever, and can specially recommend it for brooder and hen raised chicks. This enterprising firm has now issued an illustrated manual which tells how the meal is made, what it really contains, how to use it, etc., and we advise the readers of A FEW HENS to send to the Bennett & Millett Co., Gouverneur, N. Y., for a copy. It will be sent free if you say A FEW HENS told you so.

THIS PICTURE (from photo.) shows how Hartnest Strain Light Brahmas Lay, and How Thoroughly Eureka Nest Box Works.



"Number sixty-one" has laid 233 eggs to Nov. 3d, and has 71 days more to complete her laying year. Breeders, \$3.00 up; Trios, \$7.50 up; Pens, \$12 up.

Eureka Nest Box for personal use, \$3.00.
EASY TO BUILD.

Hartnest Farm, FRAMINGHAM, MASS.

Buff Wyandottes exclusively. Eggs, \$1 per 13. Sat. guaranteed. Geo. A. Porter, Oxford, Ohio.
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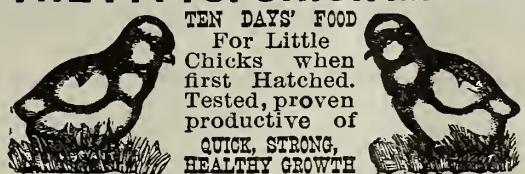
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